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Textbook row: Only one corrigendum copy to be given per school

Students will not get a copy of it

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka government has agreed to carry out eight corrections in school textbooks after strong criticism over revisions carried out as per the recommendations of the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee, it has now emerged that each student will not get a copy of the corrigendum booklet. Instead, one copy per school will be given and it is up to the school authorities and teachers to ensure that each student carries out the correction in his or her copy of the textbook.

Booklets with eight corrections in the Class I to Class X Kannada and Social Science textbooks are being printed. The Karnataka Text Book Society (KTBS) is planning to distribute them to all government, aided, and private State syllabus schools across the State soon.

The State government had issued a notification making eight corrections on June 24. This was after objections were raised by members of the public, people's representatives, and seers of various communities.

Logistical issues

There were 48,285 government, 6,312 aided, and 20,000 private schools with State syllabus in Karnataka and about one crore students were studying in them. Printing and distributing the correction booklet to each student is a Herculean task, said sources in KTBS. Lack of funding was also an issue. Therefore, KTBS was planning to distribute one copy to each school. KTBS would inform the teachers to use the booklet's content while teaching the particular lesson. Already 85% of the revised textbooks had reached the schools.

"We will inform the teachers to use the appropriate corrections while teaching the particular lessons. Teachers will give a note on it to the students. Our teachers will definitely manage this," KTBS Director M.P. Made Gowda told *The Hindu*.

Ajay Kamath, State secretary of student organisation AIDSO, differed from this view and argued that this would lead to confusion. "This shows total disregard for the opinion of so many experts. It also exposes the government's anti-student attitude. We demand that the government distribute the old textbooks to all students immediately and put an end to the confusion."

Some of the major changes that figure in the corrigendum booklet under print include adding the prefix "Samvidhana Shilpi" (architect of the Constitution) to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in the Class IX textbook, which was dropped by the Rohit Chakrathirtha-led Committee. The government has also agreed to insert lines about the contributions of Siddaganga Mutt and Adichunchanagiri Mutt and achievements of Surpur Naikas, in an effort to assuage the "hurt feelings" of Lingayat, Vokkaliga, and Naika communities.

However, several other objections, on saffronisation of textbook content, have been brushed aside.

After Udaipur case, NIA to probe Amravati killing

Police arrest seven persons, obtain CCTV footage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Saturday handed over the probe into the June 21 killing of a pharmacist at Amravati in Maharashtra to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), amid indications that he was killed over a social media post in support of suspended Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

The Ministry, in a tweet, said it had "handed over the investigation of the case relating to the barbaric killing of Shri Umesh Kolhe in Amravati in Maharashtra on 21st June to NIA". "The conspiracy behind the killing, involvement of organisations and international linkages would be thoroughly investigated," the Ministry added.

Under scanner: Two of those arrested in connection with the killing in Amravati on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The local police have arrested seven persons, including alleged mastermind Irfan Khan, and seized CCTV footage of the incident.

The other accused in the case have been identified as Muddsir Ahamed, 22, Shahrukh Pathan, 25, Abdul Thoufk, 24, Shoaib Khan, 22, Atib Rashid, 22, and Yousuf Khan Bahadur, 44. Arti Singh, Commissioner of Police, Amravati City, said Irfan ran an ambulance service and an NGO for the underprivileged members of the Muslim community. She said Kolhe was killed for forwarding a message in support of Ms. Sharma. "He forwarded the post in a WhatsApp group which had one of the accused as a member. The accused forwarded the message to [Irfan] Khan who hatched the entire conspiracy to kill Kolhe to avenge the insult to the Prophet," Ms. Singh said.

The officer said the police were never treating the case as that of a robbery attempt.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Denied bail, Zubair sent to judicial custody for 14 days

Police update media about order before court ruling

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday denied bail to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair and remanded the journalist in judicial custody for 14 days, noting the probe was in "the initial stage", considering the "overall facts and circumstances of the case" and given the "nature and gravity of offences".

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Snigdha Sarvaria of the Patiala House court here pronounced the order around 7 p.m., almost five hours after the Special Cell (IFSO) DCP K.P.S. Malhotra told the media in a "broadcast" message that Mr. Zubair had been remanded in judicial custody for 14 days.

No respite: Mohammed Zubair being taken to jail from the Patiala House courts in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

The statement from the police had prompted Mr. Zubair's counsel, advocate Soutik Banerjee, to lash out at the police: "It speaks of the status of rule of law in our country today... How KPS Malhotra knows what the order is, is beyond me." Soon after Mr. Banerjee's statement, Mr. Malhotra said he had "misheard the IO" and "inadvertently" sent the message to the press.

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CITIZENS' PLEA ▸ PAGE 7

OC not needed for electricity connections to households in city

Change comes ahead of BBMP polls

About five lakh households in Bengaluru will benefit from the decision. • FILE PHOTO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ahead of elections to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the State government has introduced a "people-friendly" reform by doing away with the requirement of an occupancy certificate (OC) for power supply for households in Bengaluru. About five lakh households benefit from this change in the rule.

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has notified the Conditions of Supply of Electricity of Distribution Licensees in the State of Karnataka (Tenth Amendment), 2022, on July 1, 2022.

Minister for Energy V. Sunil Kumar on Saturday said residential buildings, businesses, educational institutions, hospitals, and other commercial establishments can get power supply without having to produce an OC. He said the government had amended a rule introduced by the previous Congress government that caused "harassment" to commercial and domestic power users, Mr. Kumar said in a video released to the media.

"About five lakh families in the BBMP limits have been denied electricity supply as OCs have been made mandatory for power connections," he said. He claimed the earlier rule went against the provision of the electricity law.

Urban local bodies across the State issue OCs to declare a building fit for accommodation. ULBs deny OCs for buildings that violated building laws by constructing additional floors or increasing building space.

Petitions to CM

Mr. Kumar said legislators from Bengaluru had given petitions to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on several occasions seeking a change in the rule to supply electricity. The KERC received comments/ suggestions/ views/ objections from the stakeholders. The commission also held a public hearing on June 23, 2022, on the matter. The final notification was published in the official gazette on Friday.

The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) too had requested the Mr. Bommai to exempt the industries from providing occupancy certificate for obtaining the electricity supply connection.

Apologise for 'doctored' video of Rahul: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Apologise for sharing a doctored video of Rahul Gandhi or face legal action, Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said in a letter to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J.P. Nadda on July 2 and mentioned former Union Minister and Lok Sabha member Rajyavardhan Rathore as "someone who has persisted with spreading the fake video".

Twitter too flagged a video shared by Mr. Rathore as "out of context".

In the video, the BJP leader claimed that Mr. Gandhi had referred to the Udaipur killers as "youngsters".

'Killer was BJP worker'

Hitting back, the Congress accused that one of the Udaipur killers, Riyaz Attari, was a BJP worker and questioned if a probe by NIA was ordered to suppress this aspect. The BJP, however, denied any links to the Udaipur killers.

"I am appalled to note that your party colleagues have been sharing mischievous reportage that occurred on *Zee News* yesterday [July 1, 2022]. The original video was Shri. Rahul Gandhi's comment on the SFI violence on his Wayanad office," Mr. Ramesh wrote to Nadda.

But it was deliberately and mischievously doctored to appear as if it was a comment on the heinous murder of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur," Mr. Ramesh wrote, adding that no other channel had shown this clip in the Udaipur context.

Mr. Ramesh mentioned other BJP leaders like MP Subrat Pathak and MLA Kamlesh Saini as people who shared the doctored video. But he accused Mr. Rathore of deliberately persisting with the fake news.

"Despite being cautioned by my party colleagues that the clip was maliciously false and misleading, Shri Rathore persisted with amplifying the same, first deleting and then re-uploading the same. This leaves no doubt that his actions were deliberate and part of your party's strategy to defame the former Indian National Congress (INC) president, to defame the Congress party and to further polarise an already sensitive, communal situation," Mr. Ramesh noted.

Mr. Gandhi didn't directly refer to the doctored video but his tweet was suggestive.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Opposition working against nation, says BJP

NISTULA HEBBAR
HYDERABAD

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday set the tone for the two-day national executive meet of the party in Hyderabad by taking on the Opposition parties which, he said, had "for the purpose of opposing Prime Minister Narendra Modi begun opposing the nation".

Mr. Nadda said this on a day Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao skipped, for the third time, receiving Mr. Modi at the airport, which, the BJP said, was a violation of "constitutional propriety and federal protocol".

Union Minister Smriti Irani, briefing the media on Mr. Nadda's closed-door address to the party's national executive, said that the party president flagged the "obstruction and destruction" by the Opposition parties over every programme and policy of the government that was aimed at reforms and the welfare of people.

"In a bid to keep opposing Prime Minister Modi they have started opposing the nation. There are certain issues on which Opposition parties should put the interest of the country first," Ms. Irani said.

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MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

Temple run

Glimpses of the rath yatra at the Jagannath temple in Ahmedabad, held after a two-year break

TEXT AND IMAGES BY VIJAY SONEJI

At 6.56 a.m. on July 1, under skies overcast with monsoon clouds, the Jagannath temple in Ahmedabad was packed to capacity. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, along with the temple's head priest, swept the ground with golden brooms and cleared the path for Lord Jagannath's main chariot. Traditionally, the king of the state would have had the honour, but that tradition is now followed by the Chief Minister. The devotees soon pulled the chariot to start the 18-km procession in the Old City, through communally sensitive areas such as Jamalpur, Kalupur, Shahpur and Dariyapur before returning to the temple — the full-fledged event is taking place after two years of a pandemic-induced break.

More than 25,000 police and other security personnel kept vigil during the yatra. For the first time, the police used a helicopter and one motorised paraglider for aerial surveillance.

"This year, we celebrated the yatra with pomp and show with accompanying orchestra to give a glamorous touch to the function," a city-based businessman Rauf Sheikh Bengali said. In tableaux, artists paid tributes to cricket legend Shane Warne and COVID care centres and exhibited themes of contemporary relevance.

First stop: Married women perform rituals near the Lord Jagannath Temple ahead of the rath yatra in Ahmedabad.

On a roll: An artist gives final touches to the main chariot.

Top view: A motorised paraglider takes off for aerial surveillance.

Safety first: Security personnel perform a rehearsal.

Fervour of faith: Devotees having darshan at the Jamalpur temple ahead of the yatra.

During COVID-19, educational opportunities had taken a hit. But now that we are back on our feet, we are attempting to rediscover career counselling. Students can get a good idea and move ahead.

MANOHAR K.M., CMR University

When I was in II PU, I chose a random college. If parents and students visit a career-counselling event like this, they will get a good insight and better understanding about the colleges.

HEMALATHA, assistant professor, Atria College of Technology

Offline mode of career counselling is more effective since both parents and students can get their queries sorted out, and can also build a rapport while learning about the different courses offered by universities.

DIMPLE S.S., marketing officer, ICFAI Business School

It was fun and amazing. I learnt a lot about technology from eminent speakers who were interactive. It was a good learning process. Moreover, it was like knowing myself better and finding the right path in career.

DEEKSHA, student, Sophia High School

The most important thing that I learnt from the programme is to keep ourselves updated and upgraded, and integrate every skill.

BHARAV VAIDHYANATHA, student, BMS college of Engineering

The speakers presented facts in a structured and wonderful manner which cleared many doubts that the students had. I aspire to be an IAS officer, and this session taught me to use every opportunity available since competition is high.

AKASH, student, Vijaya College

We were planning to leave after the engineering session, but we stayed on for the whole event because it was really brilliant. We even took notes.

SHIMEN SHAIYU, mother of Mohammad Aman

This era is of those who grab opportunities and take on challenges, says Sudhakar

The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling event sees participation of nearly 1,000 students, parents

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

In the present day, a person can become a billionaire with neither a rupee in the bank nor an inch of land, but only on the back of a brilliant idea. Venture capitalists are waiting for the next big idea that will change lives. This is the new world, a global village, where sitting in Bengaluru one can do business in the United States of America, said K. Sudhakar, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Bengaluru South event of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling, 2022, at Mangala Mantapa, NMKRV College, in the city on Saturday. Nearly 1,000 students and parents participated in the event that saw experts from various fields, including engineering and medical, guide students on their career choices.

The process of selecting a career path is a challenging and complex process, said the Minister, and advised students to widen their horizons and follow their heart, which will stand them in good stead. "With innovations and cutting edge research, almost every sector has become exciting today. This era is going to be for those who take on challenges and grab opportunities," he said.

Describing Karnataka as a "destination" for higher education in the country, he said the State had a good education and health ecosystem. We have Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Science besides top-ranking private institutions in medicine, management and several other cutting-edge sectors. New fields like animation, artificial intelligence and machine learning have ample opportunities in the State, where Bengaluru is the startup capital of the country, he said. The robust health facilities are evident in how thriving a medical tourism destination the State is, he said.

Career counsellor Jayaprakash Gandhi said Distributed Ledger Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Extended Reality and Quantum Computing (DARQ) Technology was the future technology and new vistas would open in these sectors.

"New technologies are estimated to create 95 million jobs in the next five years. Youngsters must ready themselves acquiring multiple skill sets to acquire these jobs. With technology making its way into all fields including arts, commerce - the world will soon be cashless - graduates from all streams will find job opportunities," he said, also advising students to learn at least one foreign language.

H.R. Sudarshan Reddy, regional director of the Visvesvaraya Technological University, said students should not be swayed by trends in placement and colleges in choosing courses and their subjects. "First you need to decide what you want to become, what excites you and then choose the course accordingly. A branch of engineering or a college will never make your career, but your interest and passion for the subject will," he said.

S. Kumar, executive secretary of COMED-K, and S. Ravi, principal at Government Girls PU College and former public relations officer of Karnataka Examinations Authority, briefed the students in detail about COMED-K and CET exams, its modalities, counselling and selection of courses and seats during the process. They answered several queries raised by students.

V. Ram Prasath Manohar, special commissioner (education), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, who offered to guide and support students who were keen on pursuing civil service exams, delivered an inspirational speech. "What is needed to crack civil service exams is a positive attitude. I was born and brought up in a remote village in Tamil Nadu which did not have electricity. I cleared my civil service exams in my fourth attempt. If I have become an IAS officer today, it is not my success but the success of the Union Public Service Commission and the Constitution of India," he said.

(Clockwise from top left) Dignitaries releasing the The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling handbook in Bengaluru on Saturday; guest speakers Minister K. Sudhakar, COMED-K executive secretary S. Kumar, career counsellor Jayaprakash Gandhi, BBMP Special Commissioner (Education) V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Government Girls PU College Malleswaram principal A.S. Ravi, and Visvesvaraya Technological University regional director H.R. Sudarshan Reddy. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

All praise for *The Hindu*

It is a fair and neutral newspaper, says Minister

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar and BBMP Special Commissioner (Education) V. Ram Prasath Manohar had words of praise for *The Hindu* and suggested that students should make reading the newspaper a habit. Dr. Sudhakar described *The Hindu* as a fair and neutral newspaper and that youngsters who want to improve knowledge, comprehension, and vocabulary should read it.

Dr. Manohar said that as a student he had attended The Hindu career counselling event. "It had helped me a lot in my career," he said, adding that it was proud moment for him now to be on stage and talking to students.

Houseful: Participants at The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling event in Bengaluru on Saturday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Home-alone woman found murdered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 75-year-old home-alone woman was found murdered at her house in Vinayaka Layout at Channammanakere Acchukattu on Friday night.

Yashodamma, who was the owner of a three-storeyed building, was staying in the ground floor, and had rented out the other portions of the house. Her son stayed nearby with his family.

According to the police, the murder came to light on Saturday morning when one of the tenants found her lying in a pool of blood. The police suspect it to be murder for gain as a gold chain and a pair of bangles were missing. The police are questioning tenants and the neighbours, and checking CCTV footage.

State sees 975 COVID cases, one death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday recorded 975 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,71,459. With this, the day's TPR stood at 3.74% and the weekly TPR touched 3.68%. Of the new cases, 871 are in Bengaluru Urban. With one death, the State's toll touched 40,077.

As many as 668 were discharged on Saturday.

MSIL plans to ramp up chit fund business in a big way

Firm sets target of additional sales of ₹500 cr. in current fiscal

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

State-owned Mysore Sales International Ltd. (MSIL), an organisation that markets products and services for the Karnataka government, on Saturday said it had set an ambitious growth target for all its businesses, including liquor, chit funds, notebooks, renewable energy, and generic medicines through Jan Aushadhi.

MSIL chairman Hartal Halappa told *The Hindu* that the company was targeting additional sales of around ₹500 crore during the current fiscal, targeting an overall turnover of close to ₹3,400 crore as against last year's ₹2,901 crore.

"We are putting all our energy into growing our diverse businesses. We cannot predict sales under beverages operations, however, we hope to grow our chit fund business substantially and also more than double our sales in the renewable energy business," Mr. Halappa said.

- Through Jan Aushadhi stores, the company sold generic medicines worth ₹10.8 crore last year.

According to him, MSIL's safe chit fund business has been growing and it currently has over 2 lakh subscribers. "We have started this business to protect people from fly-by-night operators. We are now opening branches in all district and taluk headquarters to get closer to people who want to save their money safely."

The MSIL has set a target to grow chit business to ₹500 crore this year from ₹308 crore a year ago. It also expects its renewable energy business to double from ₹92 crore last year to ₹200 crore this year.

Through Jan Aushadhi stores, the company sold generic medicines worth ₹10.8 crore last year. The MSIL's notebooks brands, Vidya and Lekhak, brought in business worth ₹80 crore last year and this is also expected to grow further this year, according to Mr. Halappa.

Only 132 permanent staff

Mr. Halappa said the company currently had only 132 permanent staff and around 3,000 temporary workers to manage multiple businesses across the State. "We are facing a huge shortage in human resources. We are immediately hiring 57 permanent staff through the Karnataka Examinations Authority," he added.

BDA claims to have unearthed ₹100 cr. scam

Authority files complaint; FIR registered

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Saturday claimed that it had unearthed a scam of ₹100 crore. It filed a complaint and the BMTF has registered an FIR alleging that a person named Nagaraj, colluding with officials of the BDA, illegally received alternative lands from the Authority for the land parcels that were acquired in 1986.

A release said that for the formation of NGEF layout, BDA had acquired 4.13 acres of land in survey number 73 of K.R. Puram hobli, and deposited the compensation in the civil court. The land belonged to Eranna, and the accused, Nagaraj, as GPA holder formed a layout and sold the sites.

The revenue site owners approached the court seeking alternative land by saying the BDA had acquired their land. The court directed the BDA to take a decision as per rules. Thereafter, the accused transferred the ownership of the land in his favour and approached the BDA seeking alternative sites. Initially, the BDA rejected the requests. However, in 2012, the BDA took a decision to allot alternative sites in Arkavathy layout.

The accused again approached the Authority stating that the allotted sites fall under the buffer zone and houses can't be constructed. In 2014, considering the request, officials allotted alternative sites in Thanisandra and prime locations.

They also registered properties in his name, and issued possession certificates. Internal investigation by the police wing of BDA suggested that officials of the BDA colluded with Nagaraj.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Forest Department
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
HALIYAL DIVISION, HALIYAL-581329
Ph: 08284-220128 Fax: 08284-220365 E-mail: dcfhaliyal@gmail.com
No: A2/BGT/TENDER/CR-71/2022-23/842 DATE: 27-06-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tender is invited for **"Advance Works including Raising of Seedlings in Nurseries, Forestry Development Works, etc"** towards Haliyal, Sambrani, Bhagwati, Dandeli, Virnoli, Joida, Barchi, Jagalbet & Tinaighat Ranges in Haliyal Division at selected locations during 2022-23 as detailed in section-I. The details are here as under:
(1) Name of the Project:**"Advance Works including Raising of Seedlings in Nurseries, Forestry Development Works, etc"** (2) Web Portal Address: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (3) Designation and address of tender inviting and Accepting authority: Deputy Conservator of Forest, Haliyal Division, Haliyal. (4) Last Date and Time for Bid Tender: **Dated 25-07-2022 at up to 4.00 pm** (5) Date and Time for Open Technical Bid: **Dated 26-07-2022 at 4.30 pm** (6) Date and Time for Open Financial Bid: **Dated 27-07-2022 at 4.30 pm** (7) Work Execution Period: **Dated 31.03.2023** (8) EMD Amount Details: 1.25% of Estimated Cost, Details given in Annexure -1. (9) Retender Dates: **28.07.2022 up to 4.00 pm** for the units for which tenders are not received in earlier tenders. (10) Date and Time for Retender Technical Bid Open: **Dated 29.07.2022 at 4.30 pm** (11) Date and Time for Retender Financial Bid Open: **Dated 30.07.2022 at 4.30 pm**. The Detailed tender conditions may be obtained from the undersigned office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Haliyal Division, Haliyal

DIPR/ADK/MCA/16922-23 Dt 02.07.2022

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No.: BDA/LO/TEN/01/2022-23 Dated: 02.07.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Revision of Event Dates)

The Chief Law Officer, BDA invites tender on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru (Client), from reputed, eligible law firms for the work of **Consultancy Service for providing Professional advisory legal services for regulation, timely compliance and prosecution, monitoring of court cases, co-ordination with officers of different sections and communication with panel advocates and other allied legal services by setting up resident professional Legal Cell in BDA, Bengaluru.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 Lakh. Calendar of Events: (1)** Date of uploading the tender documents: **27.06.2022. (2)** Last date and time for receipt of queries: **11.07.2022 up to 17.00 Hours. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-Tender conference: **13.07.2022 at 15.00 Hours. (4)** Place of Pre-Tender conference: **Office of the Chief Law Officer, BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020. (5)** Last date and time for receipt of bid: **28.07.2022 up to 17.00 Hours. (6)** Time and date of opening of Technical bid: **30.07.2022 at 17.00 Hours. All other conditions remain the same as in the original notification.**

Sd/- Chief Law Officer, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/TN/07/2022-23

Conman arrested for duping senior citizen at ATM

He took the senior citizen's debit card and handed over a duplicate card while retaining the original one

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The North East Cyber Crime Police on Saturday arrested a 32-year-old labourer from Raichur who had cheated a retired government servant on the pretext of helping him withdraw money from the ATM. The accused, Mallinath Angadi, took the senior citizen's debit card and handed over a duplicate card while retaining the original card.

M.G. Ramakrishne Gowda, who went to generate the PIN for his newly issued debit card at the Canara bank ATM in Yelahanka New Town on May 21, was helped by an unidentified person who also helped him withdraw ₹40,000. Mr. Gowda returned home with the card handed over by the unidentified person and returned to the ATM on June 13 to know that the entire saving of ₹8.5 lakh had been withdrawn and the debit card he had with him was fake.

Based on the complaint, the police tracked down the accused by analysing footage from over hundred of CCTV cameras and arrested Mallinath, a native of Raichur and resident of Attur layout, and recovered 75 gram of gold valuables and a mobile phone from him.

According to the police, Mallinath used to target uneducated and senior citizen visiting ATMs and offered to help them withdraw money or change the PIN. He would divert their attention and handover the fake debit cards while retaining the original cards with him. Since he was familiar with the PIN numbers, the accused used the cards to withdraw and spend the money lavishly, a senior police official said. Mallinath has been booked for cheating and under various sections of Information Technology Act, 2000.

The police have advised people not to take help from strangers at the ATM kiosks.

Festival of amity: Members of the Sufi Islamic Board and saints greet Shri Dilipdasji Maharaj, head priest of the Lord Jagannath Temple.

A breather: Policewomen taking a moment off from their duty.

Fragrance of unity: Muslims welcome with rose petals the yatra at the Jamalpur mosque.

Vantage point: People watch the yatra from a terrace.

Wide vista: The chariot on the temple premises.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUL. 03	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 09:17	SET 22:11
MONDAY, JUL. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 10:06	SET 22:49
TUESDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:50
RISE 10:54	SET 23:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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BMRCL loss dips from ₹912 crore to ₹477 crore

Restoration of services last year resulted in increased revenue

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

With the metro services running during most of the last financial year, the loss incurred by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has dropped from ₹912 crore in 2020-21 to ₹477 crore in 2021-22.

Multiple restrictions because of the pandemic had led the BMRCL to suspend services for most of 2020-21 and the entire financial year, the fare box revenue was only ₹73.56 crore. However, with the restoration of services in the next year, the revenue jumped to ₹193 crore.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited recorded a revenue of ₹193 crore in the last financial year. • FILE PHOTO

BMRCL Managing Director Anjum Parwez said, "In 2020-21, after the outbreak of the pandemic, there was no service for most of the year. But last year, we managed to run services resulting in increased revenue. Another factor that curtailed the losses was the change in the valuation of depreciation cost. Metros like the one in Delhi consider the life span of viaduct up to 60 years whereas we were considering it only for 30 years. That has changed now." As per the balance sheet of the BMRCL, depreciation and amortization expenses have come down from ₹584 crore (2020-21) to ₹380 crore.

The official said in the current financial year, the patronage is promising, and the BMRCL is likely to generate ₹380 to ₹400 crore fare box revenue. "Last week, our ridership touched 4.8 lakh. On an average, our ridership touches close to 4.3 lakh and on weekends around 4 lakh. The daily revenue generated is ₹1 crore. We are hoping that if patronage continues to improve, we may not need cash support from the government," the official said.

He added that to generate more non-fare box revenue, the BMRCL will allow bidding for retail spaces at the metro stations after fixing the base price. After the outbreak of the pandemic, many people who had rented out spaces at metro stations for shops and eateries, discontinued their business after suffering losses. On the other hand, BMRCL is hoping for more revenue from parking lots.

To reduce power expenses, the BMRCL has a proposal to generate electricity using solar panels. "Under public private partnership, we are planning to build a 20 MW solar power project. The BMRCL will not make investment for the infrastructure. We will purchase electricity from the private investor for ₹3.8 per unit, whereas now we are paying over ₹5 per unit. The move will help us save ₹10 to ₹12 crore per year."

Pourkarmikas say promises not kept; decide to continue strike

They say CM's assurances don't find mention in the minutes of meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Accusing the State government of not delivering on the promises made, pourakarmikas have decided to continue their strike indefinitely till all assurances have been committed to in writing. They alleged that promises made by the Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in the meeting on Friday found no mention in the minutes of the meeting officials shared with them on Saturday. The strike will continue for the third day on Sunday.

Leaders of striking workers have demanded the government fix a timeline to bring pourakarmikas on its payrolls. • PTI

"The Chief Minister had agreed to bring pourakarmikas on payroll and bring loading and unloading helpers on direct payment. He had also agreed to provide ₹10 lakh to those pourakarmikas who retire after 60 years. We also received assurances on scholarships for children of pourakarmikas and others. But when we received the letter, there was no reference about these promises made and many things have been left out. We want the State government to include all the promises that were made, and the Chief Minister must come in person and give the letter. We will continue our strike till our demands are met," said Nirmala, president, BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha.

The leaders of the striking workers also demanded that the government fix a timeline to bring pourakarmikas on its payrolls. "When we received a letter from the officials, we found out that there is no reference about what is the timeline to make employment of pourakarmikas permanent. There is no reference about making direct payment facility for helpers and bringing out a separate law/policy for the pourakarmikas. It has become necessary for us to continue our strike," said union leader Clifton D'Rozario.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah participated in the protest at Freedom Park and demanded the government issue an order meeting the demands of the pourakarmikas. He said that the Congress government had increased the salaries of the pourakarmikas but the BJP government was not doing anything to protect their interests.

"Lives of pourakarmikas, who belong to oppressed communities, is filled with hardships. It is the duty of the government to safeguard their interests," said Siddaramaiah, assuring them that if Congress returned to power in 2023, the party's government would bring all of them on government payrolls.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that the government would address the issues at the earliest. "We are sympathetic towards the problems of pourakarmikas and the State government is committed to redress them in a humanitarian way," Mr Bommai told reporters before leaving for Hyderabad to participate in the BJP national executive meet.

Sanitation workers, including pourakarmikas, UGD workers, sweepers and drivers, launched an indefinite strike in the State on Friday demanding that the government regularise the services of pourakarmikas serving with urban local bodies.

Workers have urged the government to pay PF gratuity up to ₹10 lakh to those who have completed service, a monthly pension of ₹5,000 and other benefits, including a complete health check-up every three months. They also demanded 10% special reservation for their children in schools.

Man kills brother, held

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The K.R. Puram police have arrested a labourer for killing his brother over a trivial row at his house on Friday. The deceased, Balakrishna, 26, was a wall painter and was living with his parents and brother Ramakrishna.

According to the police, Ramakrishna stabbed Balakrishna repeatedly, killing him on the spot.

Walkers, heritage activists oppose private projects in Cubbon Park

A unicorn statue and a fitness training pathway are planned

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Fintech unicorn Razorpay wants to install a statue of a "unicorn with wings/flying horse" in Cubbon Park, while the Consulate General of Switzerland wants to introduce "Barn Parcours", a fitness training loop pathway. Walkers as well as environmental and heritage activists have opposed them.

Environmental activists are calling for public consultations as per norms on private initiatives in Cubbon Park.

The Department of Horticulture, and the Department of Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology jointly held a public consultation meeting on the unicorn with wings statue project on Saturday. A similar meeting will be held on Sunday morning over the Swiss consulate project, which is also called "Bengaluru Moves". "There is widespread opposition to any private initiatives and interventions in Cubbon Park. We do not want any such corporate initiatives in the park area," said S. Umesh, president, Cubbon Park Walkers' Association.

While there is widespread opposition to the statue coming up, many are open to the Bengaluru Moves project, which will only add a fitness trail infrastructure to the park, sources said.

Leo Saldanha from the Environment Support Group, said the government cannot treat public spaces are their private property and put up anything they want by private firms there. "There has to be proper public consultations as per norms," he said, adding he was opposed to any initiative by private firms in public spaces.

Concerns have been raised by heritage activists as well. "The Cubbon Park community has already been suffering from the Smart City Project and this is a wrong time to make any such interventions. Moreover, we need to ensure the spatial and visual heritage of Cubbon Park. The idea of the park should mainly be organic and not be made cumbersome," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal from Heritage Beku group. Rajendra Kumar Kataria, Principal Secretary, Horticulture Department, said they had heard the views of the people and based on their inputs a suitable call would be soon taken.

'Arrested drug peddlers were chain-snatchers too'

The Banaswadi police caught them during a random vehicle check recently

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Three drug peddlers arrested by the Banaswadi police during random vehicle check a few days ago turned out to be notorious muggers and chain-snatchers who had created havoc in the area with a series of such incidents recently.

Bhimashankar Guled, DCP, East Division, said the accused Rohith Sadiq and Rizwan had stolen a scooter from an Air Force staffer a few days ago after threatening him with a dagger. Using the vehicle, the accused started snatching gold valuables from women walking alone. Though the police recovered CCTV footage and the images of the scooter, they could not be tracked until the team from Banaswadi station confronted them during a random vehicle check. The police recovered 40 gram of MDMA, stolen bikes, and 200 gram of gold valuables worth ₹3 lakh. The accused are drug addicts and used to rob people to use the money for their vices, Mr. Guled added.

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Former Chairman & Managing Director of Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family (KKF), **Mr.Jose Thachil** (86) an Engineer by Profession and a Social Worker by Passion, left this world for his eternal reward on July 2, 2022. Even though a failing heart took him away from this world, his loving heart has left a beacon of light for all within the Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie (KKS) & Karl Kübel Foundation for Child and Family (KKF) Community. He was a man of Great Vision and a perfect example of hard work and Commitment, which every nook and corner of the Karl Kübel Institute at Coimbatore will speak for years to come.
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DOCTOR MD Chennai, Mudaliar, October 1992 born ,157cm, moolam 4 paatham, seeking MD Doctors/PG engineers/IIM/Business families, age 29–35. 9444075410

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THE HINDU
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HINDU VELLALA Pillai 37 163 Visakam Fair MBA Working in Qatar Willing to Relocate to any Place seeks well qualified Professional Groom rasnan1948@gmail.com Ct: 81220 59734

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29 /F /RC/ Teacher/ Dusky/ Seeks Well Settled Groom Caste No Bar Ph 9962524239

NAIDU, RICH 23–02–90 fair slim 165 cm uthiradam 4 magaram MBBS Dr. TN Govt Chennai seeks Dr, Govt class A officer, Business Groom. Any Naidu or any FC/BC (Tamil/Telugu) 9841743266.

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HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital, seeks suitable groom. Ct:9443680973

Saiva Pillai Girl 24/170 Ayilyam Cbe, fair B.Tech SWE MNC B'Lore, seeks Groom. senthilnathanb76@gmail.com

Mudaliar, 37, B.Com /MBA, Employed Smart seeks Employed / Business groom below 40 years. Ct:9940469633

TELUGU

24 MANAI Telugu Chetty BE.MBA 25/ 162/55 working in pvt bank chennai. 9790919406 gplvasudevan@yahoo.com

YADAVA 28 B.Tech Girl Veg Chennai seek well settled family groom. Whatsapp Horoscope & Photo: 9791167005

Naidu Girl 30/158 with H1B Visa in USA from Educated Family Seek Alliance from Naidu Boy (Balija/ Kapu/ others) with PR/ H1B Visa Working in USA. Contact +91 8985039128.

BALIJA NAIDU 23/B.Tech famousKalyana Mahal (Chennai) Star HotelsElite family seeks groom. 9087604894

NAIDU 25/161, Fair, Beautiful, CA, Analyst in MNC, 720000.PA, Affluent Family ,CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

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TELUGU

YADAV MBBS GOVT MD AIIMS 29/168 beautiful Chennai seek Same caste qualified groom India/Abroad 9444608708

BALIJA NAIDU – 24 yrs/154 cm B.E, Rohini / Rishabam, Fair, TCS, Chennai seeks Chennai groom Ct. 94864 34470.

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RC Anglo-indian 35/160 B.Tech, SW Engr in reputed Multi-national company seeks suitable Bride. Caste & Denomination no Bar. Ct: 9841462791

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BRIDE WANTED

MBBS DOCTOR, Naidu,
Age 27 years, Parents Doctors own Hospital in Coimbatore. Well to do family. Seeks a suitable Fair Doctor girl from an educated family
Contact:
98422 72255

NRI

✔ HINDU NADAR, IT prof, USA, Mar-1986 born, 6'1", Magaram, Uthradam, Teetotaler, Divorced No encumbrance. Seeks bride from USA only. Caste no bar. +91 8939481508/ +1 651 356 9254

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Hindu boy, 31/ 6'3", Affluent, Supply chain manager. Caste no bar. Soon to be based in Canada. Wh: 9597049074

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 25yrs seeks bride from community, any professional. 9382266099

CSI CHRISTIAN NADAR GROUP 1, 27yrs/ 175, fair well settled family kanyakumari dist, Ct: 9443792181

Christian Vellalar 31/183, Fair BE & BSc., Hotel Management, Asst.Manager in Reputed Hotel. Seeks working bride in any BC. Ph: 9444342703

PENSIONER 75, Expects Healthy Pious Life Partner around 70 Brahmin / Non Brahmin Woman Ct: 79048 21292

HINDU TAMIL, 1984 Born, Revathi, Groom From Rich Business family, Madurai, Seeks Good looking Bride, from South India. CNB. smjmduad@yahoo.com

AGAMUDAYAR, 29/172, Pooradam, B.E, Fair, SWE, 20 L pa seeks suitable Bride preferably SWE/ Doctor. Ct: 85080 99103

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BRAHMIN, 26, 178 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Hosur. Father is a Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448345

BRAHMIN/CASTE NO BAR, 35, 173 cms, General Manager, Chartered Accountant. Lives in Dubai. Looking for a well educated match from India or Abroad. contact. Contact: 6366448344

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 26, 173 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. The family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable, well-educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448345

NAIDU, 33, 177 cms, Medical Professional, Pursuing PG in Medicine. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Professionals. Looking for a well-settled match from Medicine or Business. Contact: 6366448343

VOKKALIGA, 30, 183 cms, Entrepreneur, BE. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a well-settled and educated match from Bangalore. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 23, 168 cms, Professional, Masters in Management. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a match from the Brahmin Iyer community in India. Contact: 6366448344

BRAHMIN, 28, 175 cms, Doctor, MD Gynecologist. Lives in Chennai. Father is Retired. Looking for a like-minded match from the same community or similar community preferably Doctor match from India or Abroad. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLA GOUNDER, 30, 157 cms, Project Manager, Masters in Engineering. Lives in the Netherlands. Father is a Professional. The family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR, 34, 170 cms, Divorced, Self Employed, MA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a well settled, Business match from Chennai/Coimbatore. Contact: 6366448343

CASTE NO BAR, 32, 168 cms, Software Engineer, ME. Lives in the USA. Father is a Professional. Looking for a well-educated match from the USA. Contact: 6366448343

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DOCTOR

37 YRS Fair Urdu Sunni Muslim MS MCh Ortho Surgeon Chennai Divorced Seeking MD/MS Doctor Bride Ct: jafahmed33@gmail.com

DOCTOR MD RADIOLOGY 28/173 Fair Tamil Udaiyar Rich Chennai seeks MD Doctor bride 9445122662 rlingam1981@gmail.com

Bride Wanted

DOCTOR(MD) US CITIZEN
30/5'9" Merit Scholar Top US Univ
Only Son
Well-Estab Educated Liberal Bengali-Hindu NRI Family
Seek Prof'l, Beautiful, Slim Match Pref Below 27 yrs from Cultured Educated Family with a Modern Outlook and Upbringing
CASTE NO BAR
Bio+Pics
USMD92@gmail.com
WA +1-510-579-9350

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai, Father Doctor, Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

HINDU NAIR, 36/169, Uthradam, Handsome, Govt.job, Divorcee without issue seeks beautiful Bride from (Nair/ Saiva Vellalar/ Vellalar) Poor/ Middle Class Family. Ct : 8807525679

HINDU BOY (Ashwathi) 26 yrs/183 cm MBBS doctor, working at BCMCH. Seeks doctor girl from similar family status. Ph: 7356468217

MARATHI

BRAHAMIN Madhva, Doctor MD.,DM 32/165cm, mutual divorcee, fair seeks doctor, engr/any graduate.9444118686

TAMIL

HINDU PILLAI 52/160cm Agriculture, Seeks Bride (CNB),CT:9788881674.

58, DECENT, Well Settled Seeking Issueless Widow / Divorcee. Contact : 7401489892

5'8 Mudaliar Boy Born in Feb 90 well settled working in Central Govt Rural Bank (RRB) near Hyderabad salary 8 lacs PA seeks Bride 5'2 above contact no 9866229004

HINDU AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar,AC,Paghaian,28/170cm, Fair,Viruchigam, Anusam, M.Tech, Pvt 50000/- Seeks same Cast Bride. Ct:9150727763, 8778669911

SC AD DIVORCEE 31 BE Canara Bank Manager 90,000/month seeks suitable bride. 9962310156/206

AGAMUDAIYAR MUDALIYAR, 44, Pooram, Simam, B.E., (E&C) 1 Lac Per Month, First Marriage, Own House, Seeks Suitable Alliance. Caste No Bar. No Brokers. Ct: 9600011225

TAMIL, 56 yrs Healthy, well settled, officers, Coimbatore Seeks independent well settled broadmaindedLady above 42, as soulmate & companion ct: 7397087032 mducbe18@gmail.com

TAMIL

IYENGAR 44/170 vadoolam, punarpoosam, working in MNC 15k/PM Seeks suitable bride Iyer/Iyengar 9940589443

CHETTIYAR, 24MANAI Telugu, MBA, 46, 5.4ft, young looking divorcee/ no kids, worked with all major Telecom companies as senior manager, now owns mid size Internet solutions Pvt Ltd. company at Madurai with TRAI's Cat–C license, 30lacs p.a., own house, seeks bride below 42, unmarried, divorcee,widow, Caste no bar, Mob: 6379257390

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 28/167 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride8248195168, 8667380725

MUDALIAR: 29/178, Handsome, B.E, MS (USA), Process Eng, MNC, USA, 100000$ PA, Affluent Family, Seeks Bride Abroad / India – 7305810258

IYER BOY, Bharadwaja Gothram, star Kettai, 32, 6.1 Ft, M.Tech, Puducherry Govt UDC, 9 lacs per annum, own house, Flat, Preference Graduate girl, Employment not must, Subsect no bar, No expectations Ct: 9443887454, 9789445577

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL, MS USA, 30 Years 185 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Manager. Employed prior in U.S.A for four years and two years in Dubai. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham & Backward Community. Seeks well Educated, Hindu Bride (Caste No Bar) for their only Son. Mobile 9840041041

MUDALIYAR BOY Bharani 31yrs 175cm M.S Employed in Singapore Seeks Qualified Bride 9884504829 / 9500068279.

MUDALIAR,CHENNAI B.E Fair 1985 Well Settled, Any Degree Emp / Un-Employ Decent Family. Ct: 8610518808

CASTENOBAR, BC 37/170 Never Married Govt job in chennai looking well settled Marital status – any whatsapp 8760996098

ARIYA VAISHYAR, Age 40/ 178cm, work MNC @ Chennai, Decent salary, CNB, No Expectation. Ct: 7567993556

HINDU NADAR, remarriage, 30, B.E, PGDM, 6.2', wheatish brown, business man, chennai, expecting good looking girl with traditional family values within 29 years rich family, culture, same caste & religion. 9444061899.

HINDU INTERCASTE, parents only son handsome 31/177 cm, M.Tech working MNC bangalore income16 lpa seeks fair good looking employed bride from reputed educated family. Ct: 8300762360, 9443210290

MUDALIAR HINDU Groom, First Marriage, age 44, HW Engineer, BE – ECE, B'lore. 9886493369/9740900969

DKV 36/160 BE SWE CTC 18 Pooradam Dhanush wellsettled seeks bride SWE/Engineering moves to Germany in 2 months Caste Nobar Ct: 94433 66333

HINDU SOZHIYA Vellalar, Pillai, Fair, Good looking, 40yrs, Rishabam/ Rohini, MCA, Software Engineer, Chennai. Ct: 9444126423

REDDY 36Y Veg B.Tech IT PVT Job seeks good family Girl Caste No Bar Contact: 9629476232

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 35/180 M.S(UK)Design Engineer employed @ Chengalpet seeks suitable Bride same community.9486291986, 9442910057.

NADAR 32 PG Dental Chennai seeks PG Medicine WhatsApp 9884039215

VANNIYAR, 35/168CM, BE, 1.25L Visagam 4th, seeks Suitable Alliance same Caste Ct: 94434 01831

PILLAI 34 Swati/Thulam Govt officer seeks bride CNB good character call 9786113003

DKV 31 BE SWE 170cm Divorcee No issue, No Encumbrance Hindu/ Christian Suitable Bride. Ct: 9444807156

PARTNER FOR myself, 35, 5ft 11inch, B.E. (College Of Engineering Guindy), IT professional in Chennai. Interfaith parenting (Father is Hindu and Mother is Christian). I have no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. I write freelance on movies as a hobby. My Contact 9003213197, Contact of Parents 9600174846

TAMIL

VELLALAR EGGETARIAN 29/175 Avittam, Maharam PhD canada working as PDF LundUniversity Sweden seeks Bride abroad/ to settled abroad 9444425506

HINDU SC AD 33/172 Ph.D Chemistry , CSIR RA seeks suitable Bride (28–31) empld. Ct:9994153134, 9840490934

BALIJA NAIDU 46/170 BCom CA MBA Remarriage Ch seeks Educated Bride CNB Chennai only Ct:geetham 9884858014

Saiva Pillai 33 Moolam 170 MCA MNC Blore Good Family background Sub caste No bar 9443154173 Email : majorelangovan@gmail.com

CASTE NO Bar, 36, Magaram Rasi, Avittam,MBA Working U.K Divorcee No issue- Intercaste Parents- Hindu Seeks well educated/ Medical Professional Bride from Tamilnadu. 6380826640

HINDU NADAR (29) 175cm BE/MBA Income 2,00,000/–Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

CHETTIAR (CNB) 29/175cm M.Tech MBA (UK) fair, seeks BE/Medical Professional Bride. CT: 63819-80158

VANIYA CHETTIAR Only Sep93 Male BE MBA (LIBA) 12L P/A Assoc Manager Standard Chartered Chennai:6369167441

MD (CLINICAL) Marathi Brahmin Boy 1990 5'10" Chennai Based Seeks Tamil Telugu Marathi Doctor Girl MD/MS(Clinical) & also State/ Central Govt Doctor's.Ct:9968267797/ 9968287792

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc (MCA) MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071369

✔IYER Vadama Garga Ayilyam-2 1973 Sep 168cm S/w USA ,boy cmng June, seeks bride.9444915698,email: rukmani46@yahoo.com

BRAHMIN IYER 33 B.E (Mech) working in Mumbai, drawing 14 Lakhs per annum, Pooram 1st Padam (as per Vakia Panjangam Magham 4th padam) Kaundinya Gothram Father Brahacharanam Mother Vadama only Son Affluent Family, Own House Seeks Decent Employed Girl.Subsect No Bar. 9445005392 /9444865392

IYER, 41 Years, Self employed Chartered Accountant earns 25lakhs per year. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

BRAHMIN WIDOWER 60+ seeks companions from widows divorcees spinsters kchandra03@gmail.com

TAMIL BRAHMIN, 36, B.Com, MBA, EPGDM, Working as Deputy Manager in a Pvt. Firm, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride in Same Community. Ph: 98846 88390 / 98404 03339

Iyer, Aailyam, Moudgalya Gothram, 25 years, 5.3",
Degree in Mass Communications, planning to do Masters, Presently Working in a Advertising Agency in Bengaluru with Income of Rs. 18 lacs per annum Seeks Suitable Educated Broad Minded Brahmin Bride.
Subsect No Bar
email:
nimishamba22@gmail.com

BRIDE WANTED

IYER BRAHACHARANAM
Bharadwajam Mirugasheerisham (Midhunam) 24.03.1988, 162 Cms.
Fair B.E., MBA., Manager, Leading Company in Coimbatore
Rs.1 Lakh/pm.
Expectation –
Any Degree Girl from Decent Brahmin Family (Sect/ Sub-Sect No Bar)
Job Not Important,
No other Expectations
94444 51066
86082 62057

TAMIL

Wanted Any Brahmin Girl Based in Hyderabad/ Chennai, for Kapi Gothram, Avittam Nakshatram Boy. DOB 11/05/1977. Horoscope Matching optional Contact: 9963426488.

MUSLIM BOY 29/176 BE(ECE) MBA(IIM) Proj Manager MNC 28L P/A well to do Family in Chennai 9445556810

BRIDE WANTED

Tamil Iyer family based in Dubai seeks alliance for their Son - 28, 5'11, with a H1B visa, working in Austin,Texas.
Looking for a beautiful & well qualified bride from a Iyer / Iyengar / Smartha / Madhwa working / Studying in the US / Willing to study and eventually work in the US preferred.
Email: axisramesh@gmail.com
✆ 00971561144046

MUDALIAR BOY Avittam, 29/177 B.E & P G. Dip. Sr.SW Engr - American MNC - Chennai, Clean Habits seeks Educated Bride, well settled Family. Sub-sect No Bar.Watsap: 9444932577

IIT6'2Handsome Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Wkg Top MNC in Hyderabad Salary 50-55 lacs seeks Doctor /Engineer 5 4' Contact: 7382620365

TELUGU

GAVARA NAIDU, 38/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Chief Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage seeks Educated Bride. Ct:9487272897

BALIJA 37/170 Moolam B.Com business 50K/pm own house, Chennai seeks educated good family bride 9840696452

KAPU BOY, 6 feet 1 inch 28 yrs, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur,Group A gazetted officer in Govt of India seeks suitable alliance Contact: +91 9453045661

KAMMA 46 177Cm, BE Divorce, Private Employee, Expected Divorce, widow Issue Less,Contact: 9790271078

NAIDU 28/178,VERY Handsome, B.E, MBA,SWE,Accenture,10 Lac PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

TELUGU BRAHMIN 6000 NIYOGI Koundiya-34 yrs, 172 cms BE– Asst Mgr (5.5 LPA) Seeks suitable bride Subsect No Bar. Ct: 9620999580

URDU

ALLIANCE INVITED for our son, 28 yrs, 6ft, very fair, BBM Graduate, working in MNC Bangalore (6LPA), from an educated, religious, Urdu speaking decent family, from Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu. Contact- 8088293949, 8861750596.

SM FOR my son, Muslim 39/ 5ft 6inch/ Masters / IT Sr. Software Consultant in Leading MNC. Contact: 8951722097

37 YRS Fair Urdu Sunni Muslim MS MCh Ortho Surgeon Chennai Divorced Seeking MD/MS Doctor Bride Ct: jalahmed33@gmail.com

SUNNI MUSLIM parents invite alliance for their son MBBS, MD (General Medicine), DM (Cardiology), presently working as Associate Cardiologist in a reputed hospital, Bangalore. Looking for a beautiful girl from a respectable family who has completed / in final year MD / MS in clinical subjects. Contact & whatsApp : 9845614231

MUSLIM BOY 29/176 BE(ECE) MBA(IIM) Proj Manager MNC 28L P/A well to do Family in Chennai 9445556810

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Punam Kumari W/O, Ravi Gupta R/o D013, Prime City, Doddathaguru, Electronic City-1, Bangalore - 560100 have changed my name to Poonam Gupta for all purposes

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Ayushman Bharat: State plans full coverage in six months

Karnataka registered a tardy start in implementing the mission and is ranked 14th in the country in the number of Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Karnataka, which ranked low at 14th in India in the number of Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs), has set up an ambitious target of creating the unique health identity cards for the entire population in the next six months.

In a fortnight after State Health Commissioner Randeep D. was appointed as the State Mission Director for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), the number of registered healthcare facilities have shot up from 12 to 202 and the number of registered health professionals has increased from 96 to 124.

With 800 integrators and over 40 digital health service applications integrated into it, the ABDM aims to digitise healthcare delivery by building an ecosystem that rides on collaboration between the government and the private sector. Under the ABDM, every citizen would be provided with a unique health identity. Along with it, a comprehensive registry of all the doctors – from superspecialists to general physicians – will be collated. This will also help in eliminating the problem of quacks, officials said.

A.P., U.P. on top

According to the ABDM dashboard launched by the National Health Authority, of the total 22.81 crore ABHAs created in the country, Andhra Pradesh is the highest contributor with 3.16 crore as of Saturday. With 66.7 lakh ABHAs, Karnataka is in the 14th place. Sources said the poor progress in the State is because of the delay in appointing a Mission Director for the ABDM. Whereas Andhra Pradesh started from September 2021, when the mission was launched.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION AND KARNATAKA

Total Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs) created: 66.7 lakh

Verified facilities on Healthcare Facilities Registry: 202

Verified professionals on Healthcare Professionals Registry: 124

Zero registrations of professionals in **five districts**

Zero registrations of health facilities in **11 districts**

Highest health facilities registered in Chickballapur: 68

Highest ABHAs in Bengaluru Urban: 27.8 lakh

Lowest ABHAs in Yadgir: 0.3 lakh

Highest health professionals registered in Bengaluru Urban: 48

People registering for Ayushman Bharat Health Account (unique health ID) and Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka Health Card at a health camp. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Of the 1,02,555 verified healthcare facilities registered with the Health Facility Registry in India, Uttar Pradesh has the highest at 26,824. Karnataka is way behind in the 19th position with just 202 verified healthcare facilities. Except for 0.5% of these 202 facilities, all are government institutions. Of the 23,356 healthcare professionals registered with the Health Professionals Registry in India, again Andhra Pradesh has the highest with 11,538 healthcare professionals on board. Karnataka with 124 registrations is in 14th place. Surprisingly, 89.67% of the registered professionals in Karnataka are from the private sector.

Zero in 11 districts

Among districts in Karnataka, while Bengaluru Urban has the highest number of the ABHAs created and verified healthcare professionals at 27.8 lakh and 48, respectively, Chickballapur has the highest number of registered healthcare facilities. Zero registrations have been recorded in 11 districts for healthcare facilities and in five districts for healthcare professionals. Mr. Randeep said that the plan was to create the ABHAs for the entire population in the State and get all hospitals and healthcare professionals on board within the next six months.

The plan is to involve the Medical Education Department and the Karnataka Medical Council for bringing doctors on board. Healthcare facilities will be registered through the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, when they apply for licence renewal. "All government hospitals up to Community Health Centres level will be mandatorily enrolled. The ABHAs are automatically created for patients, who are being issued the co-branded Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka card. The ABHAs will be generated for other patients with their consent at field-level camps and hospitals," the ABDM Mission Director explained.

Key challenges

"The key challenges faced by the Health Department include timely alerts on disease burden with geographic distribution, portability of records during referral and accessible and timely diagnosis. We hope to address these issues and prioritise treatment protocols through the ABDM," he said. He said an official memorandum regarding nominating District Health Officers and District Family Welfare Officers as the ABDM nodal officers and verifiers, respectively, had been issued. A training of all the ABDM nodal officers and verifiers would be held on July 8.

'Achhe din promised by Modi not in sight'

Congress releases booklet highlighting 'failures' of eight years of Modi-led govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday released a 40-page booklet highlighting the "failures" of the BJP government at the Centre on various fronts, and said that "Achchhe din" promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not in sight in the country.

The booklet titled 'Varsha Entu, Avantara Noorentu' (Years eight, blunders 108) was released ahead of the BJP's national executive meet in Hyderabad. It highlighted many alleged failures – including the failure to bring back black money and give ₹15 lakh to each family, curb corruption, provide jobs to two crore youth, and not being able to double farmers' income as promised – over the last eight years.

"The inflation is high, making the lives of poor people difficult. Mr. Modi during the 2014 election campaign said he would bring 'Acche din' in the country but it is not to be seen," Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged. The BJP leaders should provide explanations to failures listed in the booklet, but it was doubtful if they would do so, the Congress leader said at a press conference here.

Siddaramaiah

'Celebration of lies'

Mr. Siddaramaiah argued that the last eight years had been difficult for the people, particularly for the poor, Dalits, farmers, labourers, women, and minorities. The BJP's National Executive Meet in Hyderabad is a "celebration of lies" as the BJP failed to fulfil the promises it had made in 2014, Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged.

The Congress leader recalled Mr. Modi's two-day visit to Karnataka on June 20 and 21 and said the BJP ran an advertising campaign for two days in the State showcasing the achievements in the last eight years. But the Centre did not release Karnataka's share of revenue of ₹19 lakh crore during the last eight years. Out of ₹19 lakh crore generated from the State, only ₹4 lakh crore was released, whereas 42% of the revenue, which was about ₹8 lakh crore should have been given to the State," Mr. Siddaramaiah argued.

MLAs' 'study tour' slammed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Saturday slammed a study tour undertaken to Ladakh by a group of MLAs when the normal life of the people has been disrupted in the coastal districts and other parts of the State owing to heavy rain. A group of MLAs belonging to the Assurances Committee of the Legislative Assembly have embarked on the "study tour" to Leh in Ladakh.

"What will these MLAs learn in Leh-Ladakh? They do not even speak in the Assembly about people's issues. Are they also going to earn 40% commission there?" Mr. Siddaramaiah asked while speaking to a private television channel.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said he would look into the matter.

High Court declines to interfere with registration of 14 FIRs against teacher

He is facing charges of sexual harassment of students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to interfere with the registration of multiple First Information Reports (FIRs) against a physical education teacher of a government school in N.R. Pura of Chikkamagaluru district on the allegations of sexual harassment/assault complaints lodged by the Block Education Officer and the parents of the victim students.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while rejecting the petitions filed by Prabhunaika K.T. The petitioner had questioned the legality of the registration of 13 other different FIRs based on complaints by the parents of girl students after the registration of the first FIR on January 15, 2022, based on the complaint given by the BEO.

BEO's complaint

The BEO had lodged the complaint against the petitioner after a teacher of the school, based on complaints from the parents, had sent a report. The offences under Section 354A of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 8, 10 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Rejecting the petitioner's contention that multiple FIRs could not have been registered on the same incident, the court said that contents of the FIRs disclose that it was not a solitary incident occurred only on a particular day.

The alleged incidents, according to the complaints, span over one to three months between September 1, 2021 and January 3, 2022, and all the victims are different, the court pointed out as the parents have not given any specific date of occurrence of the incident but had narrated that offences alleged occurred between one to three months period.

As the victims in all these cases are not common but are different, every victim has lodged a complaint, which states a different period of occurrence, the court said that the registration of crimes in multiple FIRs, in the peculiar facts of these cases, cannot be found fault with.

It is for the petitioner to defend himself for the alleged acts against each of the victims, the court said as the petitioner had not challenged the FIR registered based on the BEO's complaint.

Preposterous

On the petitioner's contention that out of spite or ill-will by people who are inimical towards him in the institution these complaints are generated or brought up by luring the parents, the court said that it is preposterous, to say the least, as no parent would come forward and without any rhyme or reason register complaint against the petitioner that too alleging that her child has been sexually abused.

"Spite or ill-will against him by other teachers of the institution cannot mean that those who are inimical towards the petitioner want to shoot him from the shoulder of a child through its parents. Such arguments cannot be accepted," the court observed.

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Canara Bank's gold loan disbursals cross ₹1 lakh crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Canara Bank on Saturday said its gold loan outstanding crossed ₹1 lakh crore as on June 30, 2022.

During the current fiscal year so far, the bank's gold loan grew 26.19% as compared with the corresponding period previous year. This was possible because of the contribution from 435 Canara Bank Gold Loan Plaza Branches, the bank said in a statement.

The bank said it was expecting tremendous demand for disbursements under gold loan in the short to medium term. According to Bhavendra Kumar, Chief General Manager, Canara Bank, Head Office, Bengaluru, apart from gold loan, the bank has also achieved double-digit growth in all credit parameters.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Veena Shivananda, W/o Shivananda B.K. residing at No. 2773, AMMA, RPC Layout, Attiguppe, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040 has misplaced the below mentioned original documents of title to the property bearing Site Nos. 54 and 65 in Block II of the combined layout formed as per approved plan on land bearing Survey No. 25/1C at Vakkodi village, Bellavi Hobli, Heggere Grama Panchayat, Tumakuru Taluk/ District. Mrs. Veena Shivananda has also lodged a complaint with the jurisdictional Police Station regarding the same.

Any person/s in possession of the below mentioned original documents are hereby notified to forthwith return the same to the undersigned. Members of the public are also cautioned not to deal with any person on the basis of custody of the below mentioned documents and any such transactions shall not be binding on Mrs. Veena Shivananda.

LIST OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS
a) Original Sale Deed dated: November 30, 1995, registered as Document No. 4929 of 1995-96 in Book-I, Volume 3399 in the office of Senior Sub-Registrar, Tumakuru.
b) Khata Certificate in relation to the property mentioned above.

Mrs. VEENA SHIVANANDA
No.2773 'AMMA' 14th, 'A' Main,
RPC Layout, Attiguppe, Vijayanagara,
Bengaluru-560 040.

ARJUN SARATHY. V Advocate
B.A. LL.B., LL.M. (USA)
VNA LAW OFFICES No. 885,
1st Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town,
Bengaluru, Karnataka 560060

Date: 01.07.2022
Place: Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by me Smt. V. Kasturi Bai, intending to purchase the Schedule Property from Sri Kamal .A Jumani, any person having objection regarding the said sale transaction may contact me in the address mentioned below with relevant documents within 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and we will complete the Sale Transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Site No. 02, Khatha No. 1214/1-12A1, formerly Eastern Portion of larger property bearing Khatha No. 1214/1, carved in and out of property No. 12/A1 of Banaswadi Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, now situated at 1st Cross Road, Krishna Reddy Layout, Banaswadi coming under the purview of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Banaswadi, Ward No. 27, measuring East to West: 33 feet and North to South: 40 feet in all measuring 1320 sq. feet and bounded on **East by:** Site No. 03, now bearing Municipal No. 3, PID No. 88-213-3, belonging to Smt. M. Uma Devi, **West by:** Site No. 1, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private Property.

SMT. V. KASTURI BAI
W/o Sri T.K. Gajendran,
aged about 70 years, R/at No. 24/5,
Lakshmaiah Reddy Road,
Halasuru, Bangalore-560008.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Ballari Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.:KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT12352/CALL-2 Date:29.06.2022
No.:KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT12353/CALL-2 Date:01.07.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only) (Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited through GoK e-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from the reputed Contractors/agencies/firms having adequate experience for the works of **(1) Annual overhauling works(AOH) of bowl mills, seal air fans and its auxiliaries of (UNIT #1 or UNIT #2) and UNIT#3 for the year 2022-23.** Amount put to the Tender (Approx.): **Rs. 33.21 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 66,424/- (2) Annual overhauling works of coal/pulverized fuel(PF) piping, couplings and pipe bend, hangers and its connetced accessaries of (UNIT#1 or UNIT #2) and UNIT#3 for the year 2022-23.** Amount put to the Tender (Approx.): **Rs. 36.96 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 73,854/-** Last date & time for Online submission of tenders (for both tenders): **09.07.2022, 15.00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bids (for both tenders): **11.07.2022, 11.00 Hrs.** Opening of Price Bids (for both tenders): **11.07.2022, 11.10 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (MM)**, BTPS, KPCL, Kudithini-583 152. Ballari Dist. Mob: +91-94482 90571.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: [illegible]-1/2022-23/628 ದಿ:30.06.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ Tender document ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ವಿವರವು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ:

ಬೆಳ್ತಂಗಡಿ ತಾಲೂಕು-06 ರೂ.1096.00ಲಕ್ಷ, ಪುತ್ತೂರು ತಾಲೂಕು-04 ರೂ.444.73ಲಕ್ಷ, ಬಂಟ್ವಾಳ ತಾಲೂಕು-07 ರೂ.1139.60ಲಕ್ಷ ಮತ್ತು ಮಂಗಳೂರು ತಾಲೂಕು-03 ರೂ.22.65ಲಕ್ಷ.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು Download ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.06.2022 ರಿಂದ 29.07.2022. (2) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.07.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.07.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0824-2951583ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

No.EEE/MWD/TKR/AEE(O)/2022-23/1252-1256 Date: 18.06.2022

NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has formulated a scheme under section 67 of the Electricity Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2)(C) of the said act for information to the public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

Name of the work: Establishing 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Sub Station at Kilarlahalli by constructing 66KV LILO line from existing 66KV Pavagada - Madhugiri MC line on DC towers to the proposed 66/11kV Sub Station at Kilarlahalli for a distance of about 9.402 Kms with Coyote conductor in Pavagada Taluk, Tumakuru District.

Areas 110KV Line passing through: Tumakuru District, Pavagada Taluk, Kasaba Hobli, Bommathanahalli, Gundlahalli, Byadanuru and Nidagal Hobli, Davadabetta & Channakeshavapura Villages.

Approximate length: 9.402 Kms

Approximate Cost: Rs.955.92 Lakhs

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities passes under part III of the Indian Telegraphs Act (13 of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above schemes shall be sent to the office of The Executive Engineer (Ele)., Major Works Division, KPTCL, Tumakuru **within 30 days** from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL's pursuance.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Ele).,
Major Works Division, KPTCL, Tumakuru.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer-4 (Lakes), 3rd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No: EE-4/Lakes/Quot/23/2022-23 Date: 02.07.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from interested eligible contractor/firm for adopting in the estimates for the work of Development/Improvement works at Lakes/Parks in BBMP, Bangalore. This quotation is invited for estimate purpose only.

The Interested firms shall quote for the items mentioned below:

Item No.	Specifications	Unit	Qty
1.	Supply and installation of floating trash barriers in lake inlets	1.00	Rmtr

Detailed Specification of the above items may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Lakes, BBMP, 3rd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002 on working days from 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM before 11.07.2022.

Note: All specifications rates should be exclusive of GST but including supplying, transporting and fixing of items.

Completed quotations shall be submitted in sealed cover to the Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Lakes, BBMP, 3rd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002. The interested firm shall visit the site before submitting the quotations and the rates shall be excluding GST. Last date for submission of quotation is before 4.00 PM on 12.07.2022. Sealed quotations will be opened after 4.30 PM on the same day. The Executive Engineer-4, Lakes division may accept/reject quotations without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-4, Lakes

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Social Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-4, (Lakes),
3rd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.

No:EE-4/Lakes/Quot/24/2022-23 Date: 02.07.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Sealed quotations are invited from interested eligible contractor/firm for adopting rates in the estimates for the work of Development/Improvement works at Lakes in BBMP, Bengaluru. This quotation is invited for estimate purpose only. The Interested firms shall quote for the items mentioned below:

Item No	Sepcifications	Unit	Qty	Rate in Figures	Rate in Words
1	Providing & Fixing of LAKE AERATOR- Lake Aerator Shall be mechanical aerators of clog free design suitable for floatable conditions.	1.00	Unit		

Detailed Specification of above items may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Lakes, BBMP, 3rd floor, New building, N.R.Square, Bengaluru-560002 on working days from **10:00** am to **5:30** pm before **11.07.2022**.

Note: All Specifications Rates should be Exclusive of GST but including supplying, transporting and fixing of items.

Completed quotations shall be submitted in sealed cover to the Office of the Executive Engineer-4, Lakes, BBMP, 3rd floor, New building, N.R.Square, Bengaluru -560002. The interested firm shall visit the site before submitting the quotations and the rates shall be excluding GST. Last date for submission of quotation is before **4:00** PM on **12.07.2022**. Sealed quotations will be opened after **4:30** pm on the same day. The Executive Engineer-4, Lakes division may accept/ reject quotations without assigning any reason.

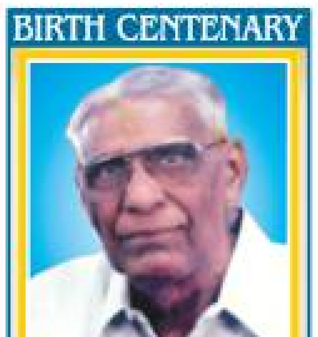
Sd/- Executive Engineer-4, Lakes

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTH CENTENARY

BIRTH CENTENARY



Dr. B. GOPALAKRISHNA RAO
DOB: 03-07-1922 DOD: 24-08-2010
Eye Specialist
Broadway, Chennai

Fondly Remembered by
Wife, Son's, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children and Great grand Children

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IN BRIEF

Naidu bats for Alluri Sitharama Raju's statue

VIJAYAWADA

TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu asked the Centre to install a statue of freedom fighter Alluri Sitharama Raju on Parliament premises. He said it was a matter of pride that the leader from Andhra Pradesh was recognised as part of the celebration of 75 years of Independence.

Senior resident doctors call off strike

HYDERABAD

Telangana senior resident doctors, who boycotted medical services from Wednesday, called off the strike on Saturday evening. They had been demanding pending salaries and stipend, and sought clarity regarding date of completion of senior residency.

'Let BJP topple us, we will topple them'

Bringing down the BJP government will save people from hate and divisive rule, says Telangana CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has appealed to the electors of the Presidential election, scheduled to be held on July 18, to vote as per their conscience after weighing the two candidates in the fray, and not based on their political affiliation.

Referring to the comments of "a Union Minister from Hyderabad", Mr. Rao said that the former had said that BJP could topple the government in Telangana as they did it in Maharashtra earlier this week.

"We are waiting for it, so that we can become free and topple their (BJP) government in Delhi so that people are saved from the hate and divisive rule," Mr. Rao said.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the BJP had 'toppled governments in nine States in its eight-year rule'.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has failed on all counts and height of all is his decisions during the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic when millions of people were forced to walk back to their native places hundreds of kilometre away with the sudden imposition of lockdown. The credit of washing away of hundreds of bodies of COVID-19 victims will also go to Mr. Modi," the Chief Minister said.

"Whatever is happening and what is being done in the country is wrong. There is a gross misuse of constitutional bodies and enforcement agencies by the present Union government. The BJP-led NDA government is killing democracy and federal structures in the country," said Mr. Rao.

Addressing a meeting of TRS MPs, MLAs, MLCs, its State executive committee members and other senior leaders of the party convened in support of Yashwant Sinha, the candidate fielded by the Opposition, here on Saturday, Mr. Rao said Mr. Sinha's candidature outweighs that of his rival's as he was a towering personality.

"He (Mr. Sinha) is an honest politician and an able administrator who handled the key portfolios of Finance and External Affairs in the Union Cabinet in the A.B. Vajpayee government," Mr. Rao said.

In an appeal to all Parliamentarians in the country, the TRS chief said that there was a democratic practice in the country of voting as per conscience on some occasions and it was done during the Presidential election, when V.V. Giri contested it and there was such a need again now.

He wished Mr. Sinha won the election, adding that it would boost the country's image and change the fortunes of the poor.

Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao greeting Yashwant Sinha in Hyderabad on Saturday. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

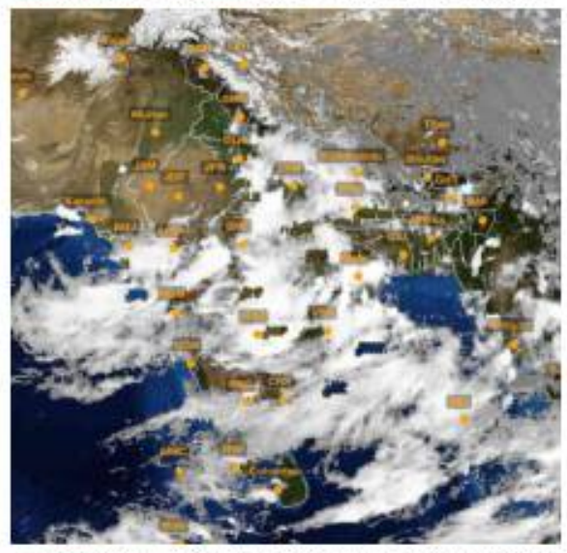
AIMIM extends support to Yashwant Sinha

HYDERABAD

A delegation of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) legislators on Saturday met the Opposition's Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha and expressed their support for him, ahead of the election slated for July 18. Four MLAs — Ahmed Balala, Kausar Mohiuddin, Mumtaz Khan and Moazzam Khan — met Mr. Sinha. On June 27, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi announced that his party would support Mr. Sinha.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.1	25.9	Kozhikode	10	30.6	24.4
Ahmedabad	13	33.9	27.2	Kurnool	7	34.0	24.8
Aizawl	28	28.1	21.0	Lucknow	0.8	31.8	27.4
Allahabad	–	31.6	28.2	Madurai	–	38.1	25.5
Bengaluru	–	28.5	20.9	Mangaluru	117.1	28.9	23.6
Bhopal	2.2	35.3	24.9	Mumbai	105	31.6	23.8
Bhubaneswar	–	33.0	25.6	Mysuru	–	31.0	21.0
Chandigarh	3.8	36.0	27.1	New Delhi	2	34.4	26.2
Chennai	–	36.4	27.0	Patna	1	34.6	25.4
Coimbatore	–	32.7	23.0	Port Blair	0.2	31.2	26.6
Dehradun	2	34.2	24.4	Puducherry	13.1	35.9	24.2
Gangtok	1	21.3	18.1	Pune	0.8	31.2	23.2
Goa	24	30.8	24.5	Raipur	–	35.5	27.2
Guwahati	–	37.0	27.0	Ranchi	4	33.5	23.1
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	3	25.5	17.4
Hyderabad	20.2	31.0	22.2	Shimla	22	27.0	20.0
Imphal	9	29.8	22.6	Srinagar	–	33.4	23.5
Jaipur	6.7	32.9	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.4	24.3
Kochi	19	29.8	24.2	Tiruchi	–	37.1	27.0
Kohima	15	27.8	15.2	Vijayawada	2	34.9	26.8
Kolkata	0.3	34.9	27.1	Visakhapatnam	–	31.2	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	48	20	70	44	88	
Bengaluru	22	29	120	–	79	
Chennai	13	25	46	54	42	
Delhi	18	45	76	159	125	
Hyderabad	22	24	104	38	63	
Kolkata	11	12	17	57	71	
Lucknow	11	113	44	71	89	
Mumbai	–	19	102	65	70	
Pune	111	189	110	87	68	
Visakhapatnam	15	45	23	68	101	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bihar Sharif, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 282 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Incessant rains hit Kodagu dist.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Kodagu district is experiencing incessant rains with ocassional breaks since the last few days indicating that the southwest monsoon was gaining vigour.

Kodagu received 50.01 mm of rainfall for the 24 hour period ending 8.30 a.m. on Saturday against a normal of 33.6 mm. The rainfall was uniform and widespread across the district with significantly heavy rainfall in the taluks.

Madikeri taluk received 100.25 mm of rainfall during the same period while Virajpet taluk recorded 25.87 mm and Somwarpet received 32.90 mm. At the hobli level Bhagamandala and surrounding regions which constitutes the catchment area of the Cauvery, received 109 mm while Sampaji received 148 mm. Srimangala received 52.20 mm of rains and Madikeri kasaba recorded 73.80 mm while Napoklu recorded 70.20 mm of rainfall. There have been incidents of roads being blocked by uprooted trees and telephone poles but they have been cleared by the authorities. Couple of trees were found uprooted near the Jodupala-Mangaluru highway and were cleared on Saturday. Heavy winds and gale had uprooted trees and blocked the Madikeri-Bhagamandala road neat Bettageribakka and it was cleared by the Forest Department staff from Madikeri range office, said the authorities.

The Madikeri-Bhagamandala-Karike road was blocked due to a landslip and it was cleared to pave way for traffic movement.

According to data released by the Kodagu district administration, the district has received 779.73 mm of rainfall since January as on date whereas Kodagu had received 946.74 mm of rainfall during the same period last year. At the taluk levels, Madikeri has received a cumulative rainfall of 1118.9 mm of rains since January so far as against 1392.02 mm during the same period last year. Virajpet has received 661.71 mm of rains as against 822.24 mm of rains recorded during the same period last year. The scenario is similar in Sowarpet which has received 558.57 mm of rains this year against 625.96 mm of rains received last year.

P.C. George held in sexual assault case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Police on Saturday arrested Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leader, P.C. George on the charge of behaving in a sexually inappropriate manner towards a woman named as prime accused in the politically stormy solar investment fraud case.

The police booked him on the charge of outraging the modesty of the woman under Sections 354 and 354 (A) of the Indian Penal Code. A magistrate court released Mr. George on conditional bail. High drama and alleged vindictive politics marked Mr. George's arrest. He alleged the case was "false, fabricated and orchestrated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan." He warned Mr. Vijayan to brace for a "decent" payback.

Mr. George said the complainant had been the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s [CPI(M)] cat's paw for years. The party had used her questionable statement to ensnare a galaxy of Congress leaders.

Mr. George said the woman had asked him to testify in her favour. "I demurred and earned her ire," he said.

While being escorted to the police vehicle, Mr. George allegedly identified the complainant, drawing questions from a woman journalist about the "impropriety of the statement".

Planter dies in jumbo attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

A planter was trampled to death by an elephant at Kelagavale village in Sakleshpur taluk of Hassan district on Saturday.

Krishne Gowda, 67, had been to his farm with his son and grandson when they encountered an elephant. The elephant trampled him to death while the two others fled from the spot.

The incident occurred when the Forest Department is engaged in an operation to capture and fix radio-collars on elephants in the area. Attacks by elephants in parts of Belur, Alur and Sakleshpur taluks is causing resentment among people.

THE HINDU
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 210/Halt/SBC/06/2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the Doddajala Train Halt station for issuing Unreserved tickets on Commission Basis for a period of five (05) years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.

Sl.	Station	Section	To Start functioning from
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Date and time of submission of application: **From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs of 11.07.2022**

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PUB/191/AAD/PRB/SBR/2022-23 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru**

S.W.Railways sw_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **Smt. Bhavya Kumari**, W/o. Vijay Kumar S. and **Sri. Vijaya Kumar S.**, S/o. Late Siddalingappa, both are residing at No. 157, Sri. 2nd Cross, Balaji Layout, Mahathahalli, Bangalore-560066, are the absolute owners of property bearing **Site No. 10, V.P. Khata No. 477/10**, formed in converted Sy. No. 79/3 of Kadabagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring **41 x 30 feet**, having purchased the same from its previous owner Sri. D. P. Balasubramanyam under sale deed dated 26-05-2015, which has been registered as document No. NGB-1-01468/15-16, in Book-I, C.D. No. NGBC0282, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore.

While purchasing the said property, Smt. Bhavya Kumari and Sri. Vijay Kumar S. have availed loan from my client **M/s. Repco Home Finance Limited**, Banashankari Branch, as per MOTD dated 26-05-2015 (Doct. No. 01472/ 2015-16).

But, the **Page No. 7 (SRO Scanned page No. 10)** of the previous title deed, i.e. Exchange Deed dated 6-6-2013 (Doct. No. 834/2013-14) was missing while creating MOTD in favour of M/s. Repco Home Finance Ltd. and the said fact came to the notice of M/s. Repco Home Finance Ltd. while closing the Home Loan Account recently. Hence, this paper publication is issued as per RHFL norms and procedure.

Rajaram D. Bhat, Advocate
No. 4, 14th Main, Attiguppe
Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has negotiated to purchase the Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule below from its Owner **Mr. SAIBANNA.C.B.**, S/o Mr.Channappa.B, residing at No 298, Raj Mahal Vilas Extension, 2nd Stage, 21-A Block, Radhakrishna Temple, BENGALURU.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/ instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/their objection's claim's, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within **FIFTEEN days** of the issuance of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that Residential Property presently bearing Municipal No.298, constructed on Site bearing No.298, allotted under the Self Financing Housing Scheme of High Income Group Category, by the Bangalore Development Authority, HIG House, situated at Raj Mahal Vilas Extension, 2nd Stage, 21-A Block, Radhakrishna Temple Ward No.18, New Ward No.100, PID No.100-767-298, measuring East to West (17.00+16.80)/2 Metres and North to South: 21.00 Meters, in all measuring 354.90 Square Meters or 3820 Square Feet, consisting of Ground and First floors and bounded as follows:- ON THE **EAST:** Site bearing No.297; **WEST:** Site bearing No.299; **NORTH:** 14th Cross Road; **SOUTH:** Site bearing No.305; Bengaluru.

KS MADANA GOPAL, Advocate
No.1, Ground Floor, ROYAL PARK, No.34, Park Road,
Bengaluru-560 051. Ph. No. 41130082, 22864065

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Nagesh .G, S/o. Sri. Gopala and his wife Smt. Divya .S, have intend to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner Sri. Trivedi Anoop Kumar, S/o. Trivedi Jagamohan Lal & Smt. D'Cruz Maria Lavita, W/o. Fernandes Francis rep. by their Attorney Holder Sri. R. Damodhar Reddy, S/o. Sri. Krishna Reddy, Residing at No. FF-3, Kovila Homes, 7th Main, 18th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560076.

If any person/s having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed further for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing Site No.22, Panchayath Khata No.1865/22, PID No. 150200101500121627 in Layout Known as "SRIMIDHI SERINITY" vide approved Plan No. APA/LAO/158/2013-14, dated 26-11-2014, formed in converted land bearing Sy. 84, situated at Yadavanahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Measuring East to West 15.24 Mtrs. and North to South 10.60 Mtrs. in all measuring 161.49 Square Mtrs. and bounded on:East by:Road, West by : Site No. 23, North by : Land Sy. No. 85/2, South by: Site No. 21.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B.
& B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
# 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore - 68
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832.
BANGALORE, DATE : 02-07-2022

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FROM PAGE ONE

After Udaipur case, NIA takes up Amravati probe

Amravati MP Navneet Rana had alleged that the police were trying to suppress the case by making it appear as a robbery attempt and that it swung into action only after she wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

However, Ms. Singh said, "The police never registered sections of robbery. His family told us that he never received any threat, we analysed his phone, didn't find any such message that he was being threatened with life."

The officer said that it was Irfan who planned and motivated the other accused to commit the crime.

The officer said the case was yet to be transferred to the NIA but the police had not found any international links so far.

The Amravati case was reported a week before the Udaipur incident in which Kanhaiya Lal, a 40-year-old tailor, was beheaded by two persons on June 28. The killers filmed the act on a mobile phone and posted it on several WhatsApp groups.

Kanhaiya Lal had shared posts in support of Ms. Sharma, who had made offensive remarks against Prophet Muhammed during a television debate in May. The NIA is also probing the Udaipur case.

Kolhe, a veterinary pharamacist, was stabbed in the neck while he was returning from work on his scooter around 10.30 p.m. on June 21.

Denied bail, Zubair sent to judicial custody

Mr. Zubair moved a bail application in the case after the Delhi Police produced him in court on Saturday upon the expiry of their police custody. Senior Public Prosecutor Atul Srivastava, for the police, submitted they do not need his custody for the time being and hence sought 14 days judicial custody, saying they may need his police remand at a later stage.

This came a day after the police seized a laptop and a hard disk drive from Mr. Zubair's Bengaluru home.

Significantly, Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Mr. Zubair, sought to put on record their "grave apprehension" that the devices may be tampered with by the police.

She submitted before the court that the Delhi Police Special Cell had travelled all the way to Bengaluru to seize his devices but did not take a technician with them, who could generate the hash value for the device.

On the criminal conspiracy section, Ms. Grover asked how the police could allege Mr. Zubair conspired with himself as he was the only accused in the case.

As for deletions from his phone, Ms. Grover submitted that the phone in question was not the one from which the tweet was made.

Moreover, Ms. Grover submitted that the phone that the police were looking for had been stolen in Bengaluru in March 2021 - a fact argued by her at the last remand hearing as well.

The June 28 order has been challenged in the Delhi High Court.

Apologise for 'doctored' video of Rahul: Cong.

"Propaganda and lies are the foundation of BJP-RSS. The whole nation knows that they seek to gain by stoking the fires of communal hatred. No matter how hard these traitors try to break the country, the Congress will work to unite India," the former Congress chief tweeted.

Earlier, Pawan Khera, chairman of the party's media department addressed a press conference in which he claimed that a Facebook post from 2018 makes it clear that Riyaz Attari, one of the killers of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal, was a member of the BJP minority wing.

"We had welcomed the NIA probe when it was announced but after these facts have come out, we are looking at it afresh.... Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot too is aware of these new facts and will decide the next course of action in accordance with law," Mr. Khera said.

Former Union Minister Renuka Chowdhury too had shared screenshots of an investigative report of a news channel that claimed links between Riyaz and the BJP. "I am not surprised. Are you?" she asked on Twitter.

Responding to her, BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya tweeted, "I am not surprised that you are peddling #FakeNews. The Udaipur murderers WERN'T members of the BJP. Their attempt to infiltrate was like the LTTEassassin's attempt to enter the Congress to kill Rajiv Gandhi."

Opposition working against nation: BJP

"Today when Nadda*ji* spoke of the constructive politics of the BJP under the leadership of the Prime Minister, he reflected on the destruction Opposition parties hope to thrust upon the people of our country. The Opposition, mostly family oriented, which emanates from corrupt practices, has time and again tried to ensure that policies and programmes of the Government of India that are dedicated to building a resilient, resurgent India are met with destruction and disruption," she quoted Mr. Nadda as saying.

Disrupted protocol

Referring to Mr. Rao not receiving Mr. Modi upon his arrival in Hyderabad, Ms. Irani said, "KCR-*ji* has not only disrupted what has been constitutionally a federal protocol in our country, but has also broken *maryada* [propriety], politically, culturally and socially." On the Telangana Rashtra Samithi's (TRS) accusation that the BJP meet in Hyderabad was a "circus", Ms. Irani said, "For KCR and his political entity, politics may be a circus, people in his party may be affiliated to clownish political behaviour and he may not take politics with the seriousness it deserves, but for the *karyakartas* of the BJP, politics is a medium for social emancipation and nation-building."

Referring to Mr. Nadda's speech, Ms. Irani said that he expressed the gratitude of the K. Chandrasekhar Rao and the country to Mr. Modi, who, in his 20 years in public office (as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister), had worked for the welfare of people.

Over 100 citizens demand immediate release of Zubair

'We apprehend that police may tamper with the seized material to implicate him'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Over 100 concerned citizens have demanded immediate release of Mohammed Zubair, the co-founder of Alt News, welcoming the Delhi High Court's notice to the Delhi Police seeking a response on a petition challenging the legality and propriety of his four-day police remand and the seizure of his digital devices.

Through an open letter, they said as a part of AltNews that ran a fact-checking website, it was Mr. Zubair's job to verify news from across the political spectrum on social media. "We believe that Mr. Zubair is being targeted maliciously for performing the role which a media person is expected to perform, namely scrupulous fact checking as well as exposing fake news and political disinformation."

Among those who have endorsed the statement are writer and human rights activist Aakar Patel, independent journalist Ajit Sahi, Arjun Sheoran of the People's Union for Civil Liberties, Kavita Krishnan of the All India Progressive Women's Association, Natasha Bhadwar of Karwan-e-Mohabbat and Dalit women's activist Priyanka.

> **It is ironical that on the same day as Mr. Zubair's arrest, India, along with G7 countries, signed the '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement', wherein the Indian government committed to 'guarding the freedom, independence and diversity of civil society actors' and 'protecting the freedom of expression and opinion online and offline'**
> OPEN LETTER

They said his courageous work as a journalist upheld the highest standards of the media and his work burnished India's global image as a democracy in which truth could be told to power.

They said Mr. Zubair's tweet, of a screenshot of a 1983 film, was simply a pretext for the police to seize his phone and laptop, which was illegal as they were irrelevant to the case. "Apart from violating his fundamental right to privacy, his journalistic integrity and confidentiality of information and sources, we apprehend that the police may tamper with the seized material and build a false conspiracy to implicate him and other members of civil society, as was done with some of the Bhima Koregaon accused by planting material on their laptops," they said.

"It is also suspicious that the account from which the complaint came was an anonymous Twitter handle @balajikijaiin by the name of Hanuman Bhakt. The account came into being on October 2021, had only one follower, and this complaint was his first tweet, although in court during Mr. Zubair's remand hearing on Tuesday, the police had submitted that the person running the Twitter account was 'not anonymous'," said the statement.

However, the signatories said, according to news reports the Delhi Police had written to Twitter in a bid to trace the complainant after using his tweet as material for a First Information Report (FIR) against Mr. Zubair.

"Apart from the above illegalities, after Mr. Zubair's arrest, his lawyers were not given a copy of the FIR despite repeated requests. They were given a copy only after the police remand order late into the night of June 27. Mr. Zubair was taken around with policemen without name tags; these are all violations of the D.K. Basu guidelines of Arrest and Detention issued by the SC," they said.

"Perplexed" that remand was granted to the police for a "frivolous" case, the signatories said the Judicial Magistrate should have ensured that police officers did not arrest the accused unnecessarily. All the charges against Mr. Zubair should be dropped and the Delhi Police Commissioner should take stern action against errant officials. They raised the suspicion that he might be tortured in police custody.

"It is ironical that on the same day as Mr. Zubair's arrest, India, along with G7 countries, signed the '2022 Resilient Democracies Statement', wherein the Indian government committed to 'guarding the freedom, independence and diversity of civil society actors' and 'protecting the freedom of expression and opinion online and offline'," said the statement.

J&K journalist stopped from flying abroad

Mystery over lookout circular

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Sanna Irshad Mattoo

A Pultizer-winning photojournalist from Jammu and Kashmir was stopped from flying to Paris at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport here on Saturday.

Sanna Irshad Mattoo said on Twitter that despite procuring a French visa, she was stopped from flying out of the country.

"I was scheduled to travel from Delhi to Paris today for a book launch and photography exhibition as one of 10 award winners of the Serendipity Arles grant 2020. Despite procuring a French visa, I was stopped at the immigration desk at Delhi airport," Ms. Mattoo said.

Ms. Mattoo from Srinagar is part of the *Reuters* team of journalists who won the Pultizer Prize for Feature Photography, 2022, for their coverage of COVID-19 pandemic in India.

The Jammu and Kashmir police did not comment on the issue.

It was not known at whose request Ms. Matoo was stopped from boarding an international flight.

Passengers are stopped by immigration authorities on the basis of lookout circulars (LOC). A person will not know if such a circular exists against him or her till they have booked the tickets and reached the airport.

According to the existing guidelines, LOCs are initiated by many agencies including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Income Tax, State police and intelligence agencies among others, by an officer not below the rank of a District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police.

After the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked by Parliament in August 2019, LOCs were opened against several politicians, human rights activists, journalists, and social activists to bar them from flying out of the country.

10% quota for Agniveers has to fit current rules

Physical norms differ for Army, CAPFs

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

In a bid to defuse the violent protest that emanated after the Agnipath scheme was announced, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on June 18 that 10% of all vacancies in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or the paramilitary will be reserved for the recruits under the scheme.

However, the new reservation promise that will have to fit horizontally alongside the existing caste-based quota and physical eligibility requirements in the CAPFs is proving to be a challenge for the Ministry.

While the minimum height requirement across all armed forces under the Agnipath scheme is 152.5 cm, the minimum height required for a general duty constable in a combat role in all CAPFs is 165 cm.

The armed forces do not recruit according to caste-based formula but enrolment in the CAPFs is done as per the existing reservation system and cannot exceed the 50% cap as fixed by the Supreme Court.

If new battalions in CAPFs are not raised, the recruitment can be done only against the existing vacancies arising out of retirement, death or any miscellaneous reason. "If a Scheduled Caste constable in CAPF has retired, the slot can be only filled by an SC Agniveer, else it might upset the overall quota," said a senior government official.

CAPF personnel at a railway station during the previous Lok Sabha polls. •FILE PHOTO

Another teething problem the Ministry is examining is the different height specifications in the armed forces.

While Army has notified a minimum requirement of 170 cm height for general category Agniveers, the Navy and Air Force's requirement is 157 cm and 152.5 cm respectively.

The CAPFs have also sought clarity from the MHA regarding the implementation of the 10% reservation.

AAP's claims of creating 10 lakh jobs misleading

Govt. data shows only 12,588 people getting jobs via portal

NIKHIL M. BABU
NEW DELHI

National convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders have been claiming for the past several months that their government has provided 10 lakh jobs in the private sector to Delhiites through its Rozgar Bazaar portal.

But only 12,588 people had actually secured jobs through the portal till May 1, according to official data accessed by *The Hindu*.

This figure of 12,588 is also an estimate of the government's as it's based solely on phone calls with people who posted the job openings, without cross-checking with people who actually got the jobs.

The Delhi government doesn't have names or any other details of people who actually got jobs, multiple sources privy to the information confirmed.

"The portal was not a huge success and there was no mechanism to actually find out how many people got jobs, or their details. It worked with a very small team," a source told *The Hindu*.

Arvind Kejriwal

Despite multiple attempts, the Delhi government refused to comment on this.

The AAP government's claims on the "10 lakh jobs" have varied over the last 20 months, depending on who made the claim and where it was made.

In an interview with *The Hindu* in March, when asked about it, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia reiterated that 10 lakh people actually got jobs through the portal and it was not that 10 lakh openings were posted on the portal.

But as per the data, only 76,646 candidates were "screened" by people who posted the jobs and 12,588 were the "candidates selected" from its inception in July 2020 till May 1. The government has never made this detailed data public.

'Kejriwal model'

AAP has used the claim of providing "10 lakh jobs" on multiple occasions, ranging from election rallies to press conferences, and the Budget speech to interviews, to project what the AAP terms as the "Kejriwal model of governance" in Delhi.

The Delhi Government used to conduct job fairs, and when the pandemic hit, it was not possible to hold them, so the authorities decided to move it online – that's was how the Delhi Rozgar Bazaar portal was born on July 27, 2020.

The first time the government used the figure of "10 lakh" was within 10 days of its launch.

As the AAP started campaigning for Assembly elections in multiple States, the figure was used in different ways. In January 2022, at a press conference in Punjab, Mr. Kejriwal said, "We have given employment to 10 lakh children during COVID."

According to a survey conducted by the Centre, the unemployment rate in Delhi is 9.1% in October-December 2021.

'Judiciary answerable to 'Constitution'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In India, a party in power believes that every governmental action is entitled to judicial endorsement and the Opposition parties expect the judiciary to advance their political positions and causes, but the "judiciary is answerable to the Constitution and Constitution alone," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said on Saturday.

He also expressed disappointment that even after 75 years of Independence people have not understood the roles and responsibilities assigned by the Constitution to each institution.

He added that this flawed thinking of all hues flourishes in the absence of proper understanding among people about the Constitution and the functioning of the democratic institutions.

Chief Justice Ramana said that to enforce checks and balances envisioned in the Constitution, "We need to spread awareness about the roles and responsibilities of individuals and institutions".

CJI Ramana said both India and the U.S. are known for their diversity which needs to be honoured

Transgender status grounds Adam's dream to be pilot

DGCA says cross sex hormone therapy renders him unfit to fly; activist says there is no scientific basis for it

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

In 2019, Adam Harry shot to fame as the country's first transgender trainee pilot, set to receive support from the Kerala Government to become a commercial pilot. Two years later, he is a delivery person for Zomato because the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) says he is unfit to fly as long as he is on hormone therapy.

The 23-year-old, a private-pilot licence (PPL) holder from South Africa, secured admission to the Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology in Thiruvananthapuram in January 2020 under the Kerala Government's welfare fund for transgender people. A PPL allows its holder to fly an aeroplane as a hobbyist, whereas a commercial pilot can make a career in flying.

Clipped wings: Adam Harry says he is not willing to sacrifice his identity for his profession. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Harry joined the institute and was soon required to undergo the Class 2 medical test to secure a student pilot's license. Mr. Harry was assigned female at birth. He identified himself as a trans man before the officials and displayed male physiological characteristics such as a beard and a male voice, yet he had no choice but to submit his application as a female because the DGCA's medical examination form doesn't include options for non-binary genders.

Following an extensive evaluation, which included a psychometric test that's not normally required, the DGCA declared him "temporary unfit" on the grounds of gender dysphoria (unease due to mismatch between sex assigned at birth and a person's gender identity), and because he is undergoing "cross sex hormone therapy". He was advised to complete his treatment and undertake a medical review. The medical examination was far from pleasant.

"The officials were transphobic and asked very personal questions about my physicality and how would I marry someone. They were bullying me to undress, even when I asked for a female assistant," Mr. Harry said.

SPECIAL

Five months later, when he received a medical clearance, Mr. Harry says it was granted because he was "coerced" into stopping his therapy as the DGCA says that as long as he is on medication, he will not be declared fit to fly. However, since his masculinising hormone therapy is a life-long treatment, the DGCA's current stand forbids him from ever becoming a pilot in India.

"I have been advised by my doctor not to break my transition therapy. And I can't sacrifice my identity for my profession. I want to be able to fly as who I am," Mr. Harry told *The Hindu*.

"The DGCA is missing any medical or scientific link between being on testosterone lifelong and flying an aeroplane. If they establish a connection, they should ban cis men from flying since they produce the same chemical endogenously," trans-rights activist and Associate Professor of Biology at Ashoka University, Bittu Kaveri Rajaraman, said. When the DGCA was asked why hormone therapy is a ground for denying medical clearance, a senior official said that though the candidate was informed of the reasons, the details could not be shared with the media "as per medical ethics".

The United States aviation regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), allows a person with gender dysphoria who has undergone a gender reassignment surgery or hormone replacement therapy subject to certain rules that have to be followed. The FAA also allows a pilot to undergo a gender transition while still flying without being grounded.

In India, the landmark Supreme Court judgment in National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) *v* Union of India recognised that third gender persons were entitled to fundamental rights under the Constitution, and held that no third gender persons should be subjected to any medical examination which would invade their right to privacy.

BJP should have kept pact: Sena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena on Saturday said former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis taking oath as Deputy Chief Minister was a "shocking climax" to the drama of creating political instability in the State, and questioned the BJP why it did not show a "big heart" by honouring the pact of rotational CM in 2019.

The Sena, in an editorial in its mouthpiece *Saamana*, said that Mr. Fadnavis becoming Deputy Chief Minister instead of Chief Minister is now being defended as an instance of his "big heart" and "adherence to the party's directives". "With the motive of creating political instability in Maharashtra, a drama was played out... The fast-paced developments have left even the Chanakayas and political pundits stunned as strokes and masterstrokes are being played," it said.

Embattled MVA fields Sena's Rajan Salvi as Speaker nominee

The BJP has put forward first-time MLA Rahul Narvekar as its candidate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Shiv Sena MLA Rajan Salvi on Saturday filed his nomination as the candidate of the three-party Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for the post of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker.

The long-pending election is slated for July 3.

On Friday, first-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator Rahul Narvekar filed his nomination for the post.

While Mr. Narvekar represents Mumbai's Colaba Assembly constituency, Mr. Salvi is the MLA for the Rajapur constituency in Ratnagiri district.

He is one of a handful of Sena legislators still with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena camp after current Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's recent intra-party rebellion detached 40 of the total 55 Sena MLAs to form a separate faction. Following the revolt and the subsequent collapse of the MVA government, Mr. Shinde, with support from the BJP, took oath as Chief Minister earlier this week, while BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister.

In the spotlight: Shiv Sena MLA Rajan Salvi. • FILE PHOTO

The Shinde faction has staked claim to be the 'real Shiv Sena' given that they now have the majority MLAs on their side and have appointed MLA Bharat Gogawale as their whip. The rebel faction is likely to issue a whip asking the Uddhav Thackeray group to vote for Mr. Narvekar, the BJP candidate. Similarly, the Thackeray group is likely to issue a whip to all rebel MLAs to vote for the MVA candidate given that Uddhav Thackeray is still the party chief.

The Speaker's post has been lying vacant since February 2021 when Congress leader Nana Patole resigned to become the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief.

Asked why the Congress chose to nominate a Sena candidate in the election for the Speaker's post instead of giving one of their own, senior Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat said: "We [representatives of all three parties] sat together and decided the post ought to be given to a Sena candidate. We are firmly with Mr. Thackeray in this hour of crisis."

A special two-day Assembly session has been convened on July 3 and 4. While election for the Speaker's post will be held on Sunday, Mr. Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis are to face the floor test on Monday.

BJP's ploy is to wrest Mumbai Corporation from Sena: Raut

MP claims he scorned offer by rebel camp to join them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had made rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde the Chief Minister of Maharashtra merely to wrest Mumbai from the Sena, Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut said on Saturday.

He further claimed that as the Sena MLAs, he too had received an offer to join the Shinde camp in Guwahati, but had refused to side with them. Mr. Raut said he chose not to go to Assam as he is a staunch follower of Sena leader Balasaheb Thackeray's ideals.

"BJP wants to destroy the Shiv Sena in Mumbai and Maharashtra, but it will not happen," said the MP, who is being quizzed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged scam pertaining to the redevelopment of Mumbai's Patra Chawl.

Sanjay Raut

Mr. Raut said that the BJP's gambit to install Mr. Shinde as CM was solely to snare the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) from the Sena's control.

The cash-rich BMC, said to be the richest civic body in Asia, is the Shiv Sena's lifeline and power base and the party's major resource centre in Maharashtra.

With the BJP under Devendra Fadnavis having scored a major coup by wrecking former CM Uddhav Thackeray's party and toppling the tripartite MVA, the saffron party is gunning for victory in the critical BMC election, which is due in a few months.

While the Sena has held absolute sway over the Mumbai civic body for two decades, the BJP, riding high on the 'Narendra Modi wave' in 2017, had rattled its former ally in the 2017 civic body poll, when it snared 82 of the total 227 seats, second only to the Sena's tally of 84 seats.

The Sena's strength later increased to 97 with the support of some Independents and the defection of some corporators from the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS).

This has made the upcoming BMC poll in the context of the dramatically altered political equations in the State a matter of life-and-death for the Uddhav Thackeray group.

Uddhav camp tries to secure loyalty

Reports of affidavits surface

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Following Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's massive intra-party rebellion which split the Uddhav Thackeray-led party right down the middle, rumblings of future revolts within the party, particularly of Sena MPs, have reportedly prompted Mr. Thackeray's camp to get their remaining flock to sign affidavits pledging loyalty.

While Sena MP Arvind Sawant and others loyal to Mr. Thackeray denied reports of MLAs being made to sign such affidavits, the rebel camp led by Chief Minister Shinde said the loyalty pledges were "an insult to democracy".

This is a democracy, not a dictatorship. Anyone who is a member of one political party is free to leave it and join another

DEEPAK KESARKAR
Maharashtra MLA

Mocking the affidavits, rebel MLA Deepak Kesarkar, the spokesperson of the Shinde faction on Saturday said there was no law binding MPs or MLAs to pledge loyalty a party.

He said that while the loyalty pledges taken on affidavits on ₹100 stamp paper would generate a lot of revenue for Maharashtra, they would have no legal standing.

"There is no such law in India...This is a democracy, not a dictatorship. Anyone who is a member of one political party is free to leave it and join another. You cannot tie someone down with an affidavit. This is an insult to democracy. Balasaheb Thackeray [late Sena founder] had tied everyone together with his love and with the *Shiv-bandhan* on our wrists - the thread of loyalty and Hindutva that ties us together. No one can take it off my wrist," said Mr. Kesarkar, speaking in Goa.

Chief Minister Shinde arrived at a hotel in Panaji early today morning and held a meeting with the rebel MLAs. The rebel MLAs arrived in Mumbai late evening in order to be present for the two-day special session of the Legislative Assembly on July 3 and 4.

Meanwhile, commenting on Mr. Shinde's expulsion from the party by Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, Mr. Kesarkar said that they (Shinde faction) would reply to Mr. Thackeray's letter in a legal manner.

"We have already said we will not directly answer any questions over statements made against us by Uddhav*ji*. We still have the greatest respect for him. The letter that CM Shinde received yesterday has been written in the legal language and will be replied to in a legal manner," Mr. Kesarkar said.

With Mr. Shinde sworn in as Maharashtra Chief Minister and having the majority of the 55 Sena MLAs with him, the refrain from the Shinde camp is that the Thackeray faction, with barely 15 legislators, can no longer claim "ownership" of the party.

Corridor revamp

Almost ready: Construction work in full swing for the Central Vista redevelopment project near India Gate in New Delhi on Saturday. Central Vista Avenue is set to open in a few days. • R.V. MOORTHY

BJP passes resolution on welfare of the poor

Party cites govt.'s relief measures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national executive on Saturday lauded the changes made by the Modi government in military recruitment with the Agnipath scheme, and dismissed talk of a crisis in employment, countering that the government had made the highest-ever budgetary allocation for public spending during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A resolution on "*gareeb kalyan*" or welfare of the poor was passed at the BJP's national executive, which met in Hyderabad on Saturday, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh moving the resolution which was seconded by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and further supported by Haryana Chief Minister M.L. Khattar.

Briefing the press on the resolution, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the Modi government had handled the economy well, keeping the welfare of the poor at the centre of its policies amid a global economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The government through the Garib Kalyan Yojana has distributed free grains to 80 crore beneficiaries for 25 months, and has also, via *gati shakti* programme, made the highest announcement of public spending on infrastructure, which is part of job creation efforts," he said. "If there was an acute [jobs] crisis, then social harmony would have been hit," he added.

U.S. body on religious freedom 'biased': MEA

USCIRF had expressed 'concerns' over the treatment of minorities, activists

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday took aim once again at the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) over comments expressing "concerns" over the treatment of minorities, human rights advocates and media, which follow its report this year downgrading India's ratings on religious freedom.

"USCIRF continues to misrepresent facts time and again in its statements and reports in pursuance of its motivated agenda. Such actions only serve to strengthen concerns about the credibility and objectivity of the organization," the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said, responding to a series of tweets posted on the USCIRF handle that criticised the Modi government.

The tweets included a comment by USCIRF Commissioner David Curry, who accused the government of "continued repression of critical voices – especially religious minorities and those reporting on and advocating for them", attaching a media report about the arrest of Gujarat activists Teesta Setalvad, R.B. Sreekumar and Sanjeev Bhatt.

Another comment by USCIRF Commissioner Stephen Schneck said that harassment of "human rights advocates, journalists, activists, and faith leaders in India is not reflective of a country with a history of democracy".

The tweet included a report on the arrest of fact-checker and co-founder of Alt News Mohammed Zubair, who was denied bail again on Saturday in a case alleging that he had offended religious sentiments in a tweet he posted in 2018.

In its latest response, the MEA called the USCIRF comments "biased and inaccurate". The comments reflected a severe lack of understanding of India and its constitutional framework, its plurality and its democratic ethos, the MEA said.

The comments are the latest in a growing number of critical comments in the U.S. over the issue. On July 1, the U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain said he was worried about calls for "genocide" within India, and criticised what he called Union Home Minister Amit Shah's "dehumanising" reference to Bangladeshi immigrants as "termites". He, however, didn't name Mr. Shah.

"India now has a citizenship law that's on the books. We've had open calls for genocide in India. We've had attacks on churches. We have had a ban on the hijab. We've had demolitions of homes," Ambassador Hussain said at a conference in Washington DC.

Condolences to kin of Kanhaiya, Moosewala

BJP national executive mourns them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal, who was allegedly killed by two men avenging an insult to Islam, and Punjabi singer and Congress party leader Sidhu Moosewala, who was shot dead recently, found a mention in a condolence message passed at the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) national executive meeting here on Saturday, sources said.

The condolence message, moved as a resolution by BJP general secretary Dilip Saikia, also mentioned several dignitaries and BJP leaders, and the Army personnel who died in a landslip in Manipur.

Days before his killing, Lal had told the local police that he had received threats over a social media post shared from his account, which apparently supported suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma's remarks on Prophet Muhammed.

New book explores Gandhi's role in Champaran satyagraha

The Mahatma refused to abide by convention, says scholar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A book titled *Gandhi and the Champaran Satyagraha: Select Readings*, which has been edited by Jadavpur University Vice-Chancellor Suranjan Das, was released on Saturday.

At the virtual book launch event, Prof. Das thanked the West Bengal government and the Netaji Institute for Asian Studies for sponsoring the research.

Speaking during a panel discussion, Faisal Devji, Professor of History in the University of Oxford, said the book would immediately become an indispensable resource for those who wanted to look at Mahatma Gandhi's journey at its very beginning in India with respect to the Champaran satyagraha.

Prof. Devji said during the satyagraha, Mahatma Gandhi quite deliberately refused to abide by the inherited conventional standard categorisations of national politics that had existed till then. "I am, in particular, referring to the distinction between social reform on one hand and political freedom on the other, which also maps on to another distinction between moderates on the one hand and extremists on the other," he said.

As the Congress party was said to have been divided between moderates and extremists, "Gandhi being Gandhi, of course, refuses to abide by these tenets and these terms of debate and you already see this in Champaran. What he does in Champaran, in my view, is he explicitly refuses to engage in formal political manoeuvres and he achieves political ends as it were through their opposite, the social", Prof. Devji remarked.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Ernakulam Junction
TENDER NOTICE NO.DCE-II-CN-ERS-OT-03-2022 DATED: 01.07.2022. Name of the work : Doubling of Track between Kuruppanthara and Chingavanam - Proposed housekeeping of Construction Camp Office at Ernakulam Junction for a period of two years. **Tender Value:** Rs. 21.82 Lakhs. Completion Period: 24 months. **Date of Opening: 25.07.2022@ 15.00 hrs.**
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Complete details & tender document will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in.**
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Tender No: 35/2022-23/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM & 12/2022-23/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM(RT1). **(1) JJM** - 2022-2024- Varkala-600mm DI K9 Raw Water Pumping Main, 23MLD WTP, 12 LL Clear water Sump, substation building, and recycling unit Compound wall & Gate at WTP, Water Supply arrangements , Electrical & Mechanical items in WTP, PLC - SCADA Automation, Scour line extension, Well / Pump House. **(2) KIIFB:**- 9m well cum pump house 500mmDI K9 Raw water pumping main, 18 MLDWTP, Pumps, water supply & electrical items in WTP, clear water transmission mains, Clear water pumping main 0.65 LL Sump & Construction of 15.3LL, 14LL, 5.2LL, 2.8LL OHSRs & Road Restoration & electrical arrangements, landscaping, Anganwadi building, Clear water pump sets, Indoor Transformer, Transformer Room and allied works. EMD: Rs.5,00,000/- each Tender fee : Rs. 15,000/- each Last Date for submitting Tender : 25-07-2022 03:00pm.
Phone : 0471-2322303, Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in Superintending Engineer
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222323 001199	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp - Softwood 70 for Unit-II	15.07.2022
222323 001200	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp - Hardwood 70 for Unit-II	16.07.2022
222313 002065	Bleached Chemi Thermo Mechanical Pulp - Hardwood 80 for Unit-I & II	18.07.2022
Email:	222313002015 - purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in 222323001196; 222323001199; 222323001200 & 222313002065 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in	

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KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(SHARAVATHY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT)
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CORRIGENDUM -1
Please refer our tender **No.: KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT12520 Dated: 18.06.2022** was published in this daily on 22.06.2022 for the work of **"Modification of existing CO2 fire extinguisher system of Unit No. 1 & 2 at Sharavathy Generating Station".** Last date and time for receipt of tenders : **11.07.2022 upto 17.30 Hrs.** Opening of Technical bid : **13.07.2022 after 10.00 Hrs.** Opening of financial bid : **15.07.2022 after 10.00 Hrs.** All other terms and conditions of e-Tender remain unaltered. Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (Generator)Jog, SGS, KPCL, Jogfalls - 577 435,** Sagar Tq. Shivamogga Dist., Karnataka, Mobile : 9449598804.

Ex-DGP, Teesta in judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD

A court here on Saturday sent activist Teesta Setalvad and former Director-General of Police R.B. Sreekumar, arrested for alleged fabrication of evidence in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases, to 14-day judicial custody.

The two were produced before Metropolitan Magistrate S.P. Patel after their police custody ended. The police did not seek their further remand, said special public prosecutor Amit Patel. Ms. Setalvad and Mr. Sreekumar were arrested over an FIR registered last Saturday by the Ahmedabad Police Crime Branch.

"The investigation officer did not ask for further custody and they were sent in judicial custody," Mr. Patel said. Mr. Sreekumar was arrested last Saturday and Ms. Setalvad the next day by the Gujarat ATS from Mumbai.

Former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, who is serving life sentence in a custodial death case in a jail in Banaskantha district, is also an accused in the case. He will be brought to Ahmedabad on transfer warrant, police sources said.

8 more bodies found, Manipur toll hits 29

Five of the bodies recovered are of Army personnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
IMPHAL

The death toll in the landslip at a railway construction site in Noney district of Manipur climbed to 29 on Saturday after eight bodies were recovered from under the debris, officials said.

Thirty-four people are still missing after the massive landslip hit the Tupul yard railway construction camp on the night of June 29. Inclement weather is affecting the search, officials said.

Five of the eight bodies recovered during the day are of Territorial Army personnel and one of an employee of a construction company. The two others are yet to be identified.

The defence personnel were there to provide security to the construction site.

"Eight bodies were found on Thursday and 13 yesterday," an official said. He said that altogether 34 people, including 14 employees of two construction companies, five villagers and three of the Railways, are still missing. Eighteen people were rescued from the site on Thursday. The search started at 4 a.m. and rescue teams have been advised to proceed with caution. Rain since early Saturday morning has hampered the operations, the officials said.

Rescue operations under way for the third consecutive day after a massive landslip hit Noney district on Saturday. • PTI

Over 470 personnel, including those of the national and State disaster response forces, the State police, the Assam Rifles and local volunteers, have been deployed for the search.

Over 30 excavators are being used to clear the debris which blocked the Ijai river, forming a dam-like storage and threatening to flood the neighbourhood.

Earthmovers have been brought in to remove the debris, and create a channel to allow the flow of water from there, officials said.

A defence spokesperson in Guwahati said, "Through-Wall Radar is being successfully used. A search-and-rescue dog is also being employed to assist." Such radars are used for the detection and location of static and moving targets, especially human beings, behind walls. The spokesperson said bodies of 14 defence personnel, including a junior commissioned officer, were sent to their hometowns. Full military honours were given to the deceased at Imphal before sending the bodies to their hometowns.

Northeast needs international routes

The land-locked southern part will do well with connectivity via Bangladesh

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Prolonged disruption of road and rail transport across a major part of Northeast India due to floods and landslips has renewed the demand for fast-tracking projects for connectivity with the rest of the country through Bangladesh.

The Barak Valley in southern Assam and the southern half of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are dependent on the arterial Lumding-Badarpur railway line for transporting essentials from other parts of the country. The National Highway through Meghalaya shares some of the passenger and cargo load, while another through Dima Hasao in Assam has not quite been serviceable.

The 185-km railway line connecting Lumding in Hojai district of central Assam and Badarpur in Karimganj district of southern Assam, much of it through the hill district of Dima Hasao, has been prone to landslips since the metre gauge track of 1899 vintage was realigned and converted to broad gauge in 2015. Badarpur is the junction from where the tracks branch out to Silchar (30 km away), Jiribam in Manipur, Bairabi in Mizoram and Agartala in Tripura. The two highways have a similar problem, particularly during the monsoon months of June to September.

Lifelines snapped: A road damaged in floods in Karimganj district on Friday. • PTI

On May 14, rain-induced landslips and flash floods damaged the railway line in Dima Hasao at 56 locations. The highways either caved in or were blocked in many places, affecting road transport for days. These cut off Barak Valley, parts of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura for weeks. Subimal Bhattacharjee, a Delhi-based cybersecurity expert from Silchar, said the landslip-prone railway and highways made the revival of old British-era routes through present-day Bangladesh important for at least five northeastern States, including Meghalaya.

"The Maitri Bridge across the Feni river connects Sabroom in Tripura and Ramgarh in Bangladesh, while efforts are on to take the railway line beyond Sabroom. Another railway line connecting Agartala and Akhaura in Bangladesh is in the works," he said.

"These will improve Tripura's connectivity by leaps and bounds. But Mizoram, Manipur, Barak Valley, Dima Hasao and Meghalaya will be better served by the old British line through Mahisasan on the Assam-Bangladesh border with Badarpur becoming the communication hub," Mr. Bhattacharjee said.

Mahisasan in Karimganj district of the Barak Valley used to be connected to Chittagong, via Kulaura.

"I am a strong proponent of connectivity, especially between Sylhet and our long-separated cousins in the Barak Valley. The Chittagong-Badarpur-Haflong railway line is one of the oldest set-up by the British to carry goods and traffic. We need to reconnect Kulaura with Mahisasan and beyond. This would be a win-win situation for both Assam and Bangladesh," Ishfaq Ilahi, a retired Air Commodore of Bangladesh Air Force specialising in international affairs, told *The Hindu*.

"I also visualise direct train between Sylhet and Silchar, just like the one we have between Kolkata and Khulna. I proposed the other day in a meeting with Indian High Commissioner here (Dhaka) to build a friendship bridge between Karimganj and Zakiganj (Bangladesh) across the Kushiara river, with immigration facilities on either side," he said.

Officials at the Northeast Frontier Railway said a 2.7-km line from Mahisasan to Zero Point is expected to be commissioned by December 2023. "Taking the track beyond into Bangladesh would then be a matter of time," a spokesperson said.

Dera Sacha Sauda behind sacrilege: SIT

Cases are under trial at Faridkot court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Punjab police has pinned the blame for the 2015 sacrilege cases in Bargari village of Faridkot district on the Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda.

In the first case, unknown persons stole the holy Shri Guru Granth Sahib from the Gurdwara of Burj Jawahar Singh Wala. Three months later, two posters containing derogatory language against the Sikh religion, its preachers and the Guru Granth Sahib were found pasted at Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village. In the third case, unknown persons had strewn the holy pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib outside the Bargari Gurudwara and on the streets.

The SIT, in its report, said there was a direct link between the cases and the Dera. "It is evident from material evidence collected by the SIT of Punjab Police that the accused persons who were apprehended in these cases were having direct nexus with the management of the Dera. The motive behind the incidents was also having link with the movie *MSG-2*. The closure report of CBI also corroborates the fact that accused Mohinder Pal alias Bittu (later killed in Nabha jail by inmates) and his companions were upset due to the non-release of the movie *MSG-2* due to which accused-Mohinder Pal organised three days 'dharna' at Moga for the release of the movie and Mohinder Pal along with accused namely Sukhjinder Singh alias Sunny and Ranjit alias Bhola remained active for the release of the movie," the report said.

"So, from the above-mentioned facts which were also observed by the CBI in its closure report are relevant and the incidents in these three cases also revolve around the above-mentioned event. So, it is clear that the accused persons were agitated and actively involved in the affairs of release and non-release of the movie," it added in the report. The SIT, led by Inspector General of Police S.P.S Parmar, submitted its report to the State DGP on April 21. The report named Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim (serving sentence) in all the three desecration incidents. The three cases of sacrilege are under trial at a Faridkot court.

Restoring the Sun Temple's exquisite carvings

The work is likely to be completed within a month, said officials of Archaeological Survey of India

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Visitors to the Sun Temple in Konark, Odisha, will soon be able to see the newly carved stones on the northern side of the *jagmohan*, or the assembly hall, of the World Heritage Site. The restoration work is likely to be completed within a month, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) officials said this week.

Historical monument: A worker engaged in restoration work on the 13-century temple. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The pilot project started in 2019 with a study of the stones at the temple and an analysis of the historic drawings and photos from the 19th century onwards. The work on the site began in 2021, Arun Malik, ASI Superintending Archaeologist (Bhubaneswar Circle), said. Local artisans are busy making the mouldings for the section being restored. Khondalite stones were procured from the ancient quarry at Tapang, Mr. Malik said.

Starting in 1901, the British government had placed plain stones across the site and filled the *jagmohan* with sand to preserve the structure of the 13th century temple. The ASI carried out conservation works after the site was handed over to it in 1936. Mr. Malik said the temple that visitors see today remains standing due to the conservation efforts over the years. Over the years, till 1986, plain stones were placed in order to keep the temple's structure secure as the conservation policy, which was drafted in 1915, only allowed for additions to be made for structural reasons. In 2014, however, the ASI brought out a new conservation policy that allowed for restoration and recreation of destroyed elements of monuments as long as they were in keeping with the history and authenticity.

Architectural value

"Restoration may be undertaken on monuments with high architectural value and only in parts of a monument wherein there are missing geometric or floral patterns, or structural members of a monument which have been damaged recently," according to the National Conservation Policy (2014).

Mr. Malik said the motifs for the pilot project were selected after researching old glass negatives of photos and the designs visible on the temple. He said the scaffolding around the northern side would be removed and the portion would be open to the public for a closer look within a month, though visitors have been able to see the ongoing work.

ASI spokesperson Vasant Swarnkar said the project would be assessed after completion before any decision is taken for further restoration work at the temple.

He said independent experts would also be invited to study it.

Lookout notice against Nupur issued

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police on Saturday issued a lookout notice against suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma after she failed to turn up to the summons issued by at least two police stations in the city.

FIRs were registered first at Narkeldanga police station and then at Amherst Street Police station for her objectionable remarks on Prophet Muhammed.

The FIRs were registered on the basis of complaints filed by individuals. At least 10 complaints were filed against Ms. Sharma under different police stations in the jurisdiction of Kolkata Police.

India adds 540 species to faunal database

New species Crocidura narcondamica found in the Andaman and Nicobar islands

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

India added 540 species to its faunal database in 2021 taking the total number of animal species to 1,03,258. The country also added 315 taxa to the Indian flora during 2021, taking the number of floral taxa in the country to 55,048.

Of the 540 faunal species, 406 are new discoveries and 134 new records to India. Thirteen new genera were also discovered in 2021. Among the new species discovered is one species from mammal, 35 reptiles and 19 species of pisces.

The new mammal species discovered is *Crocidura narcondamica*, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.

Among the reptiles discovered in 2021, notable is *Boiga whitakeri*, or Whitaker's cat snake, from the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.

The most number of new discoveries was from the faunal group Hymenoptera, an order of insects, comprising the sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, in which 80 species, including one new genus, were discovered.

Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), which observed its 107th foundation day on July 1, said scientists from the ZSI had contributed to 68% of the animal discoveries in 2021. She pointed out that during the COVID-19 pandemic, explorations were greatly hampered, but they have been renewed with full vigour now.

Union Ministers Bhupender Yadav and Ashwini Kumar Choubey during an event in Kolkata. • DEBASISH BHADURI

With 1.03 lakh species of fauna, India contributes to 6.1% of faunal diversity in the world.

The 315 taxa of flora added to India consist of 298 species and 17 intraspecific taxa as new to Indian flora. Of these, 204 taxa are new to science and 125 taxa are new distributional records from India. "Forty-three per cent novelties published in various national and international journals are of vascular plants; rest are non-vascular in nature. This volume records 135 angiosperms, four pteridophytes, 9 bryophytes, 28 lichens, 98 fungi, 29 algae and 12 microbes," a note from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) said.

According to the BSI, regions such as the Western Ghats and the northeastern regions have contributed 28% of the total discoveries. In State-wise analysis, the most number of discoveries were made from Kerala with 51 taxa followed by Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh. In 2021, the floral discoveries include wild relatives of many potential horticultural, agricultural, medicinal, and ornamental plants such as begonia, impatiens (Balsams), legumes, zingibers and orchids.

The details of new discoveries and new records of fauna and flora were published by Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, at the headquarters of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata on Friday.

Migration of species

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yadav said climate change was no distant reality and science had been very categorical on the issue. The Minister pointed out that as a consequence of climate change, a change in distributional pattern of vegetation, with species in high elevation ecosystem shifting to higher elevation had already been observed.

"Range shift and migration of animals is very much likely; the distribution of fauna needs to be monitored and periodically analysed as a priority study. Long-term studies on faunal elements of forests, aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystem are essential," Mr. Yadav said.

The Minister also pointed out that the geo-spatial data of the ZSI would be of great importance in developing adaptive spatial planning of conservation areas.

"Recent findings of ZSI will be useful in forest management and support the national action plan to combat climate change in India," Mr. Yadav said.

The Minister also pointed that the significance of taxonomists cannot be neglected but unfortunately the number of taxonomists was declining alarmingly.

Amarnath yatra curbs rile traders

Cut-off times, pickets affect tourism

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Unprecedented security restrictions imposed for the Amarnath yatra have allegedly dented the tourism sector and the movement of farm produce out of the Kashmir Valley, triggering protests from stakeholders on Saturday.

The Anantnag administration's decision to set a cut-off time of 2 p.m. for tourists to leave the most-frequented tourist spot of Pahalgam, and 12 p.m. for the nearby Aru Valley, has resulted in the cancellation of scheduled trekking groups.

"Around 2,000 trekkers have cancelled their plans in the Aru Valley. We have only managed to divert around 1,000 trekkers to other routes. Security restrictions have impacted adventure tourism in Pahalgam, which is a trekkers' paradise. I fail to understand why the Aru Valley, which is not connected to the yatra route, has been placed under restrictions," Rauf Tramboo, adventure sports consultant with travel service provider Highland Journeys, told *The Hindu*.

Kashmir is in the middle of a tourism boom for the first time since 2019, when the Centre ended Jammu & Kashmir's special constitutional status. The stringent security measures coupled with cut-off times for the entry of tourists and yatris into the Valley, however, is casting a shadow on leisure tourism too.

"Kashmiris have welcomed yatris and tourists alike since ages. This year, the security arrangements have only compounded the problems and caused immense loss to the leisure and other tourism segments," Farooq Kuthoo, president, Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK), said.

Hundreds of pickets erected across the Valley have also slowed down the movement of tourists towards their destinations, including Gulmarg.

Scores of tourists heading for Srinagar from Kargil were stopped in Sonamarg for touching the Valley after the cut-off time on Friday.

"Many tourists missed their flights due to such halts. Many spent the night in their cars. Such bad memories for tourists will not go well for the future of the tourism industry," Mr. Kuthoo said.

The Travel Agents Association of Kashmir is mulling over not taking tourist bookings for the Valley for the next 40 days, till the yatra is over on August 11.

"Travel agents outside J&K have stopped promoting Kashmir till mid-August. It has brought down the tourist influx already. Preferential treatment to the Amarnath yatra is affecting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Khuthoo said.

SUDOKU

	2			6	1	7		
7		8						
	1		9					
2			1		4		9	8
5				9				4
4	3		5		8			2
					9		2	
						1		9
		7	6	4			5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	3	8	6	7	2	1	4
6	2	8	4	9	1	7	5	3
7	1	4	3	5	2	8	9	6
1	3	6	9	7	8	4	2	5
4	7	5	6	2	3	1	8	9
2	8	9	5	1	4	6	3	7
8	4	7	1	3	5	9	6	2
5	6	2	7	8	9	3	4	1
3	9	1	2	4	6	5	7	8

Explosions rock Ukraine's Mykolaiv

President Zelensky denounces Russian strikes as 'conscious, deliberately targeted terror'

REUTERS
SERHIIVKA

Powerful explosions rocked the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv early on Saturday, the Mayor said, a day after authorities said at least 21 people were killed when Russian missiles struck an apartment building near the Black Sea port of Odessa.

Air raid sirens sounded across the Mykolaiv region, which borders the vital port of Odessa, before the blasts.

"There are powerful explosions in the city! Stay in shelters!" Mykolaiv Mayor Oleksandr Senkevich wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

It was not immediately known what caused the explosions. Reuters could not independently verify the report.

Explosions flattened part of an apartment building while residents slept on Friday, another in a series of what Ukraine says are Russian missile attacks aimed at civilians.

Sifting through rubble: Ukrainian rescue officials clearing debris at a damaged building in Serhiivka on Saturday. •AP

In his nightly video address on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced the strikes as "conscious, deliberately targeted Russian terror and not some sort of error or a coincidental missile strike."

Kremlin denies attacks

Kyiv says Moscow has intensified its long-range missile attacks, hitting civilian targets far from the frontline. Russia says it has been aiming at military sites. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov cited President Vladimir Putin's statements "that the Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets".

A Russian missile earlier this week struck a crowded shopping mall in central Ukraine, killing at least 19 people.

Thousands of civilians have been killed since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 in what Moscow calls a "special operation" to root out nationalists. Ukraine and its Western allies say it is an unprovoked war of aggression.

Residents in the resort village of Serhiivka near Odessa helped workers pick through the rubble of the nine-storey apartment block, a section of which had been destroyed in Friday's early-morning strike.

"We came here to the site, assessed the situation together with emergency workers and locals, and together helped those who survived. And those who unfortunately died. We helped to carry them away," said Oleksandr Abramov, who lives nearby and had rushed to the scene when he heard the blast.

Serhiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the Odessa regional administration, said 21 people had been confirmed killed, including a 12-year-old boy.

The region will observe a day of mourning on Saturday for those killed during the attack, Bratchuk said.

The strike on Serhiivka took place shortly after Russia pulled its troops off Snake Island, a strategically important outcrop about 140 km (85 miles) southeast of Odessa that it seized on the war's first day.

The chief of Ukraine's General Staff, Valeriy Zaluzhny, accused Russia of failing to abide by its assertions that it had left Snake Island as a "gesture of good will". On his Telegram messaging app channel, Mr. Zaluzhny said two Russian warplanes had taken off from a base in Crimea and bombed targets on the island on Friday evening.

He posted a video of what he said was the attack. Reuters could not confirm the authenticity of the video or the Russian action depicted.

Protesters storm Libyan Parliament, set it ablaze

Public anger over prolonged power cuts, political deadlock

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TRIPOLI

Protesters stormed Libya's Parliament in the eastern city of Tobruk on Friday and set parts of it ablaze, venting their anger at deteriorating living conditions and months of political deadlock.

Black smoke billowed as men burned tyres and torched cars after one protester had smashed through the compound's gate with a bulldozer and others attacked the walls with construction tools, local media reported.

The building was empty, as Friday falls on the weekend in Libya.

Libya's House of Representatives has been based in Tobruk, more than 1,000 km east of capital Tripoli, since an east-west schism in 2014 that came three years after a mass popular revolution toppled dictator Muammar Gadhafi.

Angry reaction: Protesters outside the Libyan Parliament building in Tobruk on Saturday. •REUTERS

A separate legislature, formally known as the High Council of State, is based in Tripoli as the oil-rich North African country remains divided between rival administrations vying for control.

Libya, sweltering in summer heat, has endured days of power cuts – a situation worsened by the blockade of key oil facilities amid the entrenched political rivalries.

"We want the lights to work," chanted protesters, some of whom were brandishing the green flags of the Gadhafi regime.

The Parliament condemned the "acts of vandalism and the burning" of its headquarters.

Pak. journalist assaulted after he called Generals 'property dealers'

Unknown persons stop car, attack him and flee from scene

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

A senior Pakistani journalist and political analyst has been assaulted by unidentified masked men, who also tore his clothes, as he left his office here in the Punjab province, a day after he termed Pakistan's powerful Army Generals "property dealers".

Ayaz Amir, 73, was returning home late Friday after recording his television show for Dunya News TV channel, where he works as a senior analyst, when unknown persons stopped his car. The attackers then manhandled him and also tortured his driver before fleeing from the scene.

With bruises on his face, Mr. Amir said that the masked men not only "hit him and tore his clothes, they also took away his cellphone and wallet. They left when people started gathering on the busy road".

In a tweet later, Mr. Amir said those who attacked him did not care about his age.

"I have no personal enmity with anyone and I had no quarrel with anyone. Whoever attacked me didn't even care about my age," he said. "The only fault was that I speak the truth and I will continue to speak, God willing," he added.

On Thursday, during a speech at a seminar in Islamabad', Mr. Amir targeted the military establishment for its role in Pakistan's politics. The seminar was also attended by former PM Imran Khan.

Typhoon sinks ship off Hong Kong

Dozens of crew in danger after the vessel suffered damage and broke into two

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

More than two dozen crew members are unaccounted for after their ship broke into two during a typhoon in the South China Sea on Saturday, with rescuers scrambling to find them, officials say.

An engineering vessel that was 160 nautical miles southwest of Hong Kong "suffered substantial damage and broke into two pieces" and the 30-member crew abandoned ship, according to the Hong Kong Government Flying Service.

Three people had been rescued as of 3 pm local time (0700 GMT) and were taken to hospital for treatment, authorities said.

Peril at sea: A view from a helicopter as it approaches a sinking ship in the South China Sea on Saturday. •AP

Dramatic footage provided by Hong Kong authorities showed a person being airlifted onto a helicopter while waves crashed over the deck of the semi-submerged ship below.

The three survivors said other crew members may have been swept away by waves before the first helicopter arrived, according to a government statement.

Typhoon Chaba earlier formed in the central part of the South China Sea and on Saturday afternoon made landfall in Guangdong province in southern China.

Rescuers in Hong Kong found the ship near Chaba's centre, where harsh weather conditions made the operation "more difficult".

Five killed in earthquake in southern Iran

REUTERS
DUBAI

At least five people were killed by a magnitude 6.1 earthquake in southern Iran early on Saturday, state media reported, with the area also hit by two later strong quakes of up to 6.3 magnitude.

"Five people have died in the earthquake ... and so far 12 are hospitalised," Mehrdad Hassanzadeh, head of emergency management in Hormozgan Province, said. "Rescue work is under way and we are providing tents as emergency housing."

Afghan clerics vow loyalty to Taliban

At meeting, the Islamist group makes no mention of the issue of girls' schooling

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Thousands of Afghan clerics pledged loyalty to the Taliban on Saturday, but ended a three-day meeting without recommendations on how the hardline Islamist group should govern the crisis-hit country.

The men-only gathering was called to rubber-stamp the Taliban's rule, and ahead of the meeting officials said criticism would be tolerated and they could also discuss thorny issues such as secondary school education for girls.

Media barred

Media were barred from the event, although speeches were broadcast on state radio – including a rare appearance by the Taliban's reclusive supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Taliban officials presented the gathering as an opportunity for clerics to independently say how they wanted the country to be governed, but the meeting's final declaration was mostly a regurgitation of their own doctrine.

It called for allegiance to Akhundzada, loyalty to the Taliban, and the complete acceptance of sharia law as the basic principle of rule.

"By the grace of God, the Islamic system has come to rule in Afghanistan," the declaration read.

"We not only strongly support it, but will also defend it. We consider this to be the national and religious duty of the entire nation."

Since returning to power in August, the Taliban's harsh interpretation of sharia law has imposed severe restrictions on Afghans – particularly women.

Secondary school girls have been barred from education and women dismissed from government jobs, forbidden from travelling alone, and ordered to dress in clothing that covers everything but their faces.

The Taliban have also outlawed playing non-religious music, banned human figures in advertising, ordered TV channels to stop showing movies and soaps featuring uncovered women, and told men they should dress in traditional garb and grow their beards.

The final declaration made no mention of girls' schooling, but called on the government to pay "special attention" to modern education, as well as justice and the rights of minorities "in the light of Islamic law".

It said the new government had brought security to the nation – despite an attack on the meeting Thursday by two gunmen that was claimed by the Islamic State group, which has regularly carried out bomb blasts and ambushes since the Taliban's return.

China's Foreign Minister visits Myanmar for talks on Mekong

Rising number of hydro projects on the river raises concerns

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BANGKOK

China's top diplomat on Saturday arrived on his first visit to Myanmar since the military seized power last year to attend a regional meeting that the government said was a recognition of its legitimacy and opponents protested as a violation of peace efforts.

Wang Yi

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will join counterparts from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam in a meeting of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group in the central city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The grouping is a Chinese-led initiative that includes the countries of the Mekong Delta, a potential source of regional tensions due to an increasing number of hydroelectric projects that are altering the flow and raising concerns of ecological damage. China has built 10 dams along the upper stretch of the Mekong, the part it calls the Langcang.

Military government spokesman Major General Zaw Min Tun told a news conference in the capital Naypyitaw on Friday that the attendance of the Foreign Ministers at the meeting was a recognition of Myanmar's sovereignty and its government.

He said the ministers will sign memorandums of understanding and contracts. He did not elaborate.

It's unclear whether Mr. Wang would meet Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the military government.

Myanmar's military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, 2021. It was quickly met by nonviolent nationwide demonstrations and triggered armed resistance that some UN experts now characterize as civil war.

The Foreign Minister of Myanmar's shadow government, which opposes the ruling military council, protested the Bagan meeting, saying any such efforts in partnership with junta violate the will of the people and undermine community building.

Google to delete data on abortion visits

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO

Google announced on Friday it would delete users' location history when they visit abortion clinics, domestic violence shelters and other places where privacy is sought.

"If our systems identify that someone has visited one of these places, we will delete these entries from Location History soon after they visit," Jen Fitzpatrick, a senior vice-president at Google, wrote in a blog post. "This change will take effect in the coming weeks."

Other places from which Google will not store location data include fertility centres, addiction treatment facilities, and weight loss clinics.

This came a week after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the right to abortion, leading a dozen States to ban or severely restrict the procedure.

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(A Government of Karnataka Institutions)
No. 8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor,
Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No.: KREIS/INFRA-2/CR-89/2022-23 Date: 30.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Tendering Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Supply Desk cum Benches to Residential Schools / Colleges coming under KREIS (Indent No. KREIS/2022-23/IND343)** from eligible agency through e-portal vide website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on **01.07.2022**. The last date for receipt of tender is **30.07.2022**. The details may be viewed at above website.

***Sd/-* Executive Director**
KREIS

DIPR/CP/LC/1176/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 3 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Karnataka Neeravari Nigama
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Short Term Notification

Reference: This office tender notification No: 1275 Dated: 01.07.2022

Electronic percentage tender through e-procurement platform is invited by the Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., ***No.6, Canal Division, Ballari***, on behalf of M.D., KNNL Bangalore for taking up of Four works In two cover system (Supply of manpower Estimation amount from Rs.55.00 lakhs to 91.95 lakhs). The last day for the submission of tender is 11.07.2022 at 4.00pm and Technical bid opening day is 12.07.2022 at 4.30 pm and Financial bid opening day is 14.07.2022 or next convenient day will be informed to successful bidders, For more information https://eproc.Karnataka.gov.in may visited or may contact this office

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, No.6, Canal Division, Bellary.
DIPR/Ballari/210/MCA/2022-23

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, TUMKUR TERRITORIAL DIVISION, TUMKUR
E-Mail:dcftmk_dcftmk@yahoo.co.in
No:A/BUD/CAMPA/NPV/Ten/CR-33/2022-23 Dated: 28.06.2022
E-Tender Notification

E-Tenders are invited by Forest Department, Tumkur Territorial Division for Advance Works, Cattle Proof Trenches and Other Forest works for the year 2022-23, The Bidder needs to be Registered as Forest Contractor in tumkur Division for the year 2022-23 and for Civil works PWD Class 2/3 contractors can partificipate for the following works.
Total Number of Works:32, Highest Value of the Work Rs.95,18,400/- Highest Value of the EMD: Rs.1.90.368/- Lowest Value of the Works : Rs.3.59.000/-, Lowest Value of the EMD: Rs.8,975/-
Bid submission Closing Date & time: **28.07.2022** at 3:00 PM, Technical Bid Opening Date : **29.07.2022** at 04:00 AM, Peice Bid Opening Date : **30.07.2022** at 04:00 PM.
If no bids are received on **28.7.2022** auto extension date will be on **01.8.2022** with the same conditions. For more information about this tender may contact our office at office timings and more details on https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Tumkur Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/248/MCA/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ (ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಮೇಯೋ, ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.3, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ. (ಕಡಕೋಳ ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ) ಇವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ.

ಸಂ:ಕೃಮೇಯೋ/ಪುವಿ-3/ಜೋ.ವಿ-3/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2022-23/521 ದಿನಾಂಕ:30-06-2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಮೇಯೋ, ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ-3, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ (ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ ಕಡಕೋಳ ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ) ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದಂತೆಯಾವುದೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ/ಕೃ.ಭಾ.ಜ.ನಿ.ನಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಂಡಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ-2 & 3 ರನ್ವಯ) ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಶೇಡಶಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ www.eproc Karnataka govt.in ದಿನಾಂಕ:30-06-2022 ರಿಂದ ದಿ:16-07-2022 ವರೆಗೆ ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಬಂಧನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯ ಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. (ಮೋ ಸಂ: 9620892102 ಅಥವಾ 9108335489).

ಸಸಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕೃಮೇಯೋ,ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ-3,
ಕಡಕೋಳ ಪುನರ್ವಸತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ.

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO:134/MCA/2021-22

Office of the Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Special division, Shimoga
Ph: 08182-222942, E-Mail : spdivision@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

IFT NO: 08/2022-23 **Date : 28-06-2022**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.PP act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-4 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department Class-3 & above can apply for **the work approved under 5054-04-337-0-01-422 MDR (SCP) Construction of Alternate road to Shivamogga Central Jail and Siddaragudi village because of disconnected road due to construction of Airport near Sogane village in Shivamogga Taluk. (Indent No.153047) Work and in Amount put to tender is. Rs. 305.34 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs. 4.58 lakhs Time allowed for completion of work is 09 months including Monsoon.**

The tenderers may submit tenders through E-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (**http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section -2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **29-06-2022 to 14-07-2022** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **14-07-2022 at 17.30 PM.** The Technical bid will be opened on **15-07-2022 at 5.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **16-07-2022** Onwards. If there any Changes it is published through E-Procurement only. More information may be obtained from the office during working hours. Information published in Website is final.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Public Works Department,Special Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/SMG/No.08-07 zenkar/2022-23

SNAPSHOTS

Child hepatitis
The United Kingdom is seeing a rise in unexplained cases of hepatitis in children. Researchers have hypothesised a link to the coronavirus. Now, United States data cast doubt on that idea — the number of cases there has remained flat. The rise in U.K. cases may be connected to infections with adenoviruses.

Smell matters
People with similar body odours are more likely to instantly get along as friends. Researchers used human smellers and a smell-detecting 'electronic nose' to sniff the scents of 20 pairs of same-sex, non-romantic friends. Both found that friends smell more like each other than do random pairs.

Gene activity
Researchers are getting closer to their goal of revealing exactly where in a cell or tissue each gene is expressed. Spatial transcriptomics allows them to study gene expression in samples. The resulting 'atlases' of spatial information can tell which cells make up each tissue, how they are organised and how they communicate.

To the Moon
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) CAPSTONE spacecraft launched from New Zealand on June 28 should reach the Moon by November 13. CAPSTONE will study the lunar orbit where NASA plans to lodge a space station that will orbit the Moon in a stable path, making it easier for astronauts to reach more parts of the Moon.

New pathway to regulate nitrate absorption in plants

The micro-RNA-switch controls a gene that regulates nitrate absorption, root development, stress tolerance

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Researchers led by those from the National Centre of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru (NCBS-TIFR), have found a new pathway that regulates nitrate absorption in plants.

The gene MADS27, which regulates nitrate absorption, root development and stress tolerance, is activated by the micro-RNA, miR444, therefore offers a way to control these properties of the plant.

The researchers studied this mechanism in both rice (monocot) and tobacco (dicot) plants. The research is published in *Journal of Experimental Botany*.

Nitrogen is one of the most important macronutrients needed for development of a plant. It is a part of chlorophyll, amino acids and nucleic acids, among others. It is mostly sourced from the soil where it is mainly absorbed in the form of nitrates and ammonium by the roots. Nitrates also play a role in controlling genome-wide gene expression that in turn regulates root system architecture, flowering time, leaf development, etc.

Thus, while a lot of action takes place in the roots to absorb and convert nitrogen into useful nitrates, the absorbed nitrates in turn regulate plant development apart from being useful as a macronutrient.

Nitrate overuse

So, the presence of nitrates is important for the plant development and also for grain production. However, the overuse of nitrates in fertilizers, for instance, can lead to the dumping of nitrates in the soil which leads to accumulation of nitrates in water and soil. This accumulation adds to soil and water pollution and increased contribution to greenhouse gases.

To avoid this, there should be optimal use of nitrates. Also, since the whole process of nitrate absorption takes place in the roots, a well-developed root system is needed for this to take place optimally.

At one level, it is known that the hormone auxin is responsible for well-developed roots across all plants. A number of genes are known to help with auxin production, improved nitrate transport and assimilation in plants.

Regulatory switches

In addition to this route, several gene regulatory switches that regulate nitrate absorption and root development, such as the micro-RNA, miR444, are known in monocot plants, such as rice.

"The micro-RNA 'miR444' is specific to monocots. When this is not made, its target, MADS27, is produced in higher abundance, and it improves biosynthesis and transport of the hormone auxin, which is key for root development and its branching," says Dr. P.V. Shivaprasad, who led the researchers at National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru (NCBS-TIFR).

This regulatory miR444 switch is known to turn off at least five genes called MADS box transcription factor genes. The speciality of the MADS box transcription factors is that they function like switch boxes of their own. They bind to their favourite specific DNA sequences and they switch the neighbouring genes "on."

Three-pronged effect

The researchers have studied a target gene of miR444 called MADS27, a transcription factor which hasn't been studied well before.

They have found that this transcription factor has a three-pronged effect on the plant.

First, it regulates nitrate absorption by switching "on" proteins involved in this process. Second, it leads to better development of the roots by regulating auxin hormone production and transport. Finally, and somewhat surprisingly to the researchers, it helps in the abiotic stress tolerance by keeping the main stress player proteins "on."

"This is a new finding with a three-pronged effect and it provides an alternate means of regulating and optimising nitrate absorption," says Dr. Shivaprasad.

Dicot plants

Wanting to test this in dicot plants as well, the researchers carried out the study on tobacco plants as well. "We realised MADS27 works to improve three factors – nitrate absorption, root development and stress tolerance – with the help of RNA analysis and after finding to which part of the genome this transcription factor binds," explains Dr. Shivaprasad.

According to the researchers, the gene MADS27 appears to be an excellent candidate to modify, in order to develop nitrogen use efficiency, which is something that helps the plant absorb more nitrates, and to engineer abiotic stress tolerance.

"Tinkering MADS27 expression by genome editing is the next step, so that the modified plants are acceptable to use directly," he adds. The larger goal of this study is to understand how epigenetics plays a role in regulating expression of such important genes.

Controlling nitrate absorption in plants

A novel pathway has been found, which can use gene editing to achieve this objective

Approach: The researchers used rice and tobacco plants to study the mechanism. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Plants mainly absorb nitrogen from the soil in the form of nitrates and ammonium
- An important macronutrient, nitrogen is a part of chlorophyll, amino acids and nucleic acids
- There is a need to regulate and optimise nitrogen intake in plants, so that the excess is not dumped in soil and water
- The hormone auxin is responsible for well-developed roots across all plants, influencing nitrate absorption

ALTERNATE PATHWAY

- The regulatory micro-RNA switch – miR444 – is known to turn off at least five genes called MADS box transcription factor genes
- A target gene of miR444 called MADS27, has a three-pronged effect: regulating nitrate absorption and root development, and stress tolerance
- Tinkering with MADS27 may help regulate nitrate absorption and engineer abiotic stress tolerance

India's patent law safeguards under fire

The new recommendation reduces the period within which patent applications can be challenged to six months

LEENA MENGHANEY
ROSHAN JOSEPH

The price-lowering effect of competition and domestic manufacturing of medicines can transform how diseases get treated in resource-poor settings. Decisions made by Indian patent offices can negatively impact generic competition and supply worldwide, relying on the availability of affordable medicines made in India. Monopolies granted by patent offices on medical products keep prices high and block local manufacturers from supplying low-cost generic drugs.

In 2005, lawmakers from all political parties amended Indian patent law to ensure that the Indian patent office did not grant monopolies on old science or for compounds already in the public domain. The new law now prevents drug corporations from indulging in "evergreening", a common abusive patenting practice aimed at obtaining separate patent monopolies relating to the same medicine. And to bring this to the notice of the patent examiners, the amended patent law allowed any person to file a pre-grant opposition 'anytime' before the patent office decides to grant or reject a patent application.

This week the *Economic Times[LMI]* reports that the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister recommended the period within which patent applications are open to challenge by the public be restricted to a mere six months from the date of its publication.

Since the Indian Patent Offices receive an average of 50,000 patent applications a year, examiners often miss critical information about the patent application under consideration. A recent study on pharmaceutical patent grants in India revealed that 7 out of 10 patents are granted in error by the Indian Patent Office. A robust pre-grant opposition system provides an additional administrative layer of scrutiny that prevents the grant of frivolous patents through third parties' participation in the review process.

Evergreening monopolies on medical products is a lucrative game for pharmaceutical corporations allowing them to charge high prices. And the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) – Big Pharma's association in India – has made several attempts to undermine this safeguard in the patent law and has renewed their efforts.

Avarice: Evergreening monopolies on medical products is a lucrative game for pharmaceutical corporations. • GETTY IMAGES

The commerce ministry, responsible for administering the patents act, is now under pressure to restrict pre-grant patent oppositions.

Pre-grant oppositions

In 2005, the first challenge to a pending patent claim on a medicine was filed by Cancer Patient Aid Association (CPAA) before the Indian patent office. CPAA highlighted that the Swiss corporation Novartis' patent application on Imatinib Mesylate (Gleevec), a life-saving anti-cancer drug, claims a salt form of old medicine, a common practice within the pharmaceutical industry, and should not be considered patentable. The patent office subsequently rejected the patent, which was later upheld by the High Court and the Supreme Court. The pre-grant opposition by CPAA on the cancer drug protected the price reduction from over ₹14 lakh per patient per year from Novartis to less than ₹40,000 per patient per year from generic manufacturers.

In the last 17 years, generic manufacturers and people living with HIV, DR-TB, and viral hepatitis have also filed several patent oppositions to safeguard generic competition so that quality, affordable generics can be procured by health programmes. In 2006, PLHIV networks filed the first such opposition to a patent application by Glaxo Group Limited (GSK) for Combivir on a fixed-dose combination of two AIDS drugs, zidovudine/lamivudine. GSK withdrew the patent application in India and several other countries after the patent opposition in India pointed out that the patent claims did not cover a new invention but simply the combination of two existing drugs.

Several such challenges before the patent office have successfully ensured the availability of affordable HIV medicines to millions living across the developing world. The 99% reduction in the prices of antiretrovirals following the generic competition, from $10,000 per person per year down to less than $100, has been a critical factor in the expansion of antiretroviral treatment to millions in low and middle-income countries.

Prescribing a timeline and cutting short the window period for pre-grant opposition makes it difficult to challenge frivolous patent applications on drugs and vaccines. The information in patent applications does not permit the public to rapidly identify the claimed medical product. The identification and further analysis are time-consuming as several applications are pending on the same medicine, vaccine or technology. Reducing the opportunities for filing challenges to pending patent claims will not increase efficiency or reduce pendency. On the contrary, pre-grant oppositions provide information to the examiners that can help speed up the examination process and deny invalid patents.

The real challenge

The humanitarian medical organisation, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), has supported hundreds of pre-grant oppositions in India, working closely with patient groups to safeguard generic competition to increase access to affordable medicines from India.

In our experience, tackling the overwhelming number of evergreening patent claims on known drugs and technologies is the real challenge for the Indian patent office. The attempt to dilute the timeline on pre-grant opposition diverts from the real problem.

(Leena Menghaney and Roshan Joseph are lawyers and work for Access Campaign at Médecins Sans Frontières.)

2°C temp. rise can damage Earth's species

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Global emissions are expected to cause the planet to continue heating rapidly over the next few decades, prompting the global average temperature to overshoot the Paris agreement's target, which aimed to limit warming to between 1.5°C and 2°C.

For the first time, scientists studied the consequences of allowing Earth's temperature to exceed these precautionary limits, then fall below them again.

The results suggest that a temporary overshoot would cause waves of irreversible extinctions and lasting damage to tens of thousands of species. This is what the world can expect if humanity fails to make deep emission cuts this decade.

Just a few years of global temperatures above 2°C could transform the world's most important ecosystems. The consequences of this exposure could be irreversible and include the tropical forest turning into savanna. The world would lose a critical global carbon sink, leaving more planet-warming gases in the atmosphere.

Why India should support antibiotics development

India needs an investment mindset that can fund and sustain drug discovery and development

ABDUL GHAFUR
ANAND ANANDKUMAR

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a looming public health crisis impacting every country globally with a disproportionate impact on lives and livelihood in low and middle-income countries. A recent report from the Global Research on AntiMicrobial resistance (GRAM) project found that in 2019, an estimated 4.95 million people suffered from at least one drug-resistant infection and AMR directly caused 1.27 million deaths.

AMR is one of India's major public health problems, directly contributing to about 30% of deaths due to neonatal sepsis across India. These are due to multidrug-resistant (MDR) hospital-acquired infections in many cases. Over 30% of the COVID-19 deaths in India could be attributed to our failure to treat the secondary bacterial infections caused by MDR pathogens with the appropriate antibiotics.

Irrational antibiotic use by the medical community, the general public and the farmers generate drug-resistant superbugs. Inadequate infection control measures in the hospitals and the sanitation issues in the community result in the dissemination of these superbugs.

To tackle the AMR crisis, we need robust investment in research and development of new antibiotics, rapid and affordable diagnostics, strengthening infection control and prevention practices, formulating and implementing antibiotic stewardship programmes across the country and ensuring equitable access to life-saving antibiotics. One such immediate intervention is a welcome move by the Government of India to pass legislation banning the use of streptomycin and tetracycline in agriculture and the growth promotional use of colistin in poultry farming.

With India's reputation as the pharmacy of the global South, with numerous global compliant manufacturing plants, it's time to expand our focus and investment in early R&D of life-saving antibiotics. We have the intellectual firepower and critical talent pool. However, we need robust investment from Government and private sector in specialised training coupled with an investment mindset that can fund and sustain drug discovery and development.

Precarious: The market for antibiotics is broken and the drug pipeline is ultrathin. • GETTY IMAGES

Dry antibiotic pipeline

During the last decade, the success rate from Phase 1 to FDA approval for new antibacterial drugs was found to be 16.3% in comparison to the overall industry average of 7.9%. Despite this higher success rate, antibiotic development suffers from a lack of investment and quick market uptake of newly approved products. The exit of big pharma from antibiotic development coupled with a lack of investment from venture capitalists and the paucity of enabling regulatory and policy solutions to support the commercial viability of antibacterial agents has pushed AMR into a global health crisis.

Why is the market for antibiotics broken and the drug pipeline ultra thin? Unlike most new drugs, post-approval, new antibiotics are used sparingly (antibiotic stewardship practices) and reserved mainly for cases in which older antibiotics are ineffective. In addition, the reimbursement mechanisms in several countries discourage hospitals from using an expensive novel broad-spectrum antibacterial agent when a cheaper generic option is available. These unique challenges in the current treatment guidelines and archaic reimbursement models contribute to commercial failure and restricted or lack of access for patients in dire need of these live-saving agents.

Most major pharma companies have exited the AMR space because of the low return on investment (ROI). Surprisingly, around 80% of the antibiotics currently in the clinical pipeline are developed by small biotech companies. To reverse this trend, we need immediate solutions and sustainable mechanisms in the long term.

The push-pull model

Small companies are getting early-stage funding from public-private partnerships like CARB-X (the Combating Antibiotic Resistance Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator), which has provided more than $360 million in funding for 92 antibacterial projects over the past five years. This funding is an example of the push model that has catalysed the creation of a robust pipeline of projects in early discovery.

The pull vector may come from the "Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Upsurging Resistance" (PASTEUR) Act, if and when the U.S. government passes it. Companies that develop critically needed antibiotics for drug-resistant infections would receive a federal government contract ranging from $750 million to $3 billion spread over ten years.

To incentivise the creation of new treatments, the U.S. Congress enacted the Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now Act (GAIN Act) of 2012, which provides benefits to manufacturers of Qualified Infectious Disease Products (QIDPs) including five years of additional non-patent exclusivity.

In addition, the recent creation of the AMR Action Fund with a mandate to invest more than $1 billion to address the current funding gaps in the development of new antibiotics will give a boost to late-stage molecules in clinical development.

(Abdul Ghafur is Coordinator, Chennai Declaration on AMR and Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Apollo Cancer Institute, Chennai. Anand Anandkumar is CEO, Bugworks, Bengaluru.)

Question Corner

Dogs' ancestry

What is the ancestry of dogs?

An international group of scientists, led by the Francis Crick Institute, have found that the ancestry of dogs can be traced to at least two populations of ancient wolves. Dogs are known to have originated from the gray wolf, with this domestication occurring during the Ice Age, at least 15,000 years ago.

In a study (*Nature*), the researchers turned to ancient wolf genomes to further understand from where the first dogs evolved from wolves. They analysed 72 ancient wolf genomes, spanning the last 1,00,000 years, from Europe, Siberia and North America.

The remains came from previously excavated ancient wolves, with archaeologists from 16 different countries contributing to the study. The remains included a full, perfectly preserved head from a Siberian wolf that lived 32,000 years ago. Nine different ancient DNA labs then collaborated on generating DNA sequence data from the wolves.

By analysing the genomes, the researchers found that both early and modern dogs are more genetically similar to ancient wolves in Asia than those in Europe, suggesting a domestication somewhere in the east.

However, they also found evidence that two separate populations of wolves contributed DNA to dogs. Early dogs from north-eastern Europe, Siberia and the Americas appear to have a single, shared origin from the eastern source. But early dogs from the Middle East, Africa and southern Europe appear to have some ancestry from another source related to wolves in the Middle East, in addition to the eastern source, says a release.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

In ruins: A powerful earthquake of magnitude 5.9 on the Richter scale struck a remote town in Afghanistan • AP

Measuring quakes

What is at the heart of earthquakes? Can they be predicted? Is it possible to set up early warning systems?

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

The story so far: Recently a powerful earthquake of magnitude 5.9 on the Richter scale struck a remote town in Afghanistan, killing over a thousand and injuring many more. According to the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, a 5.9 on the Richter scale is roughly equivalent to 37 times the energy released by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Experts are still trying to figure out the best early warning system to mitigate the damage caused by earthquakes.

How do earthquakes happen?

■ According to the theory of plate tectonics, the Earth's crust and upper mantle are made of large rigid plates that can move relative to one another. Slip on faults near the plate boundaries can result in earthquakes. The point inside the Earth where the earthquake rupture starts is called the focus or hypocentre. The point directly above it on the surface of the Earth is the epicentre.

What are seismic waves?

■ Any elastic material when subjected to stress, stretches in a proportional way, until the elastic limit is reached. When the elastic limit is crossed, it breaks. Similarly, the Earth also has an elastic limit and when the stress is higher than this limit, it breaks. Then there is a generation of heat, and energy is released. Since the material is elastic, the energy is released in the form of elastic waves. These propagate to a distance determined by the extent of the impact. These are known as seismic waves.

How are earthquakes measured?

■ Earthquakes are measured by seismographic networks, which are made of seismic stations, each of which measures the shaking of the ground beneath it. In India, the National Seismological Network does this work. It has a history of about 120 years and its sensors can now detect an earthquake within five to ten minutes.

The most successful early warning systems are in Japan, according to experts. They have thousands of recording devices, which determine what sort of damage is expected. Sometimes, a tsunami warning is given out as a precautionary step

According to Shyam S. Rai who is a Raja Ramanna Fellow and Professor Emeritus at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, the wave parameters are measured, not the total energy released. He explains that there is a relationship between the quantum of energy released and the wave amplitude. The amplitude of the wave is a function of the time period of the wave. It is possible to convert the measured wave amplitude into the energy released for that earthquake. This is what seismologists call the magnitude of the earthquake.

What is the Richter magnitude scale?

■ This is a measure of the magnitude of an earthquake and was first defined by Charles F. Richter of the California Institute of Technology, U.S., in 1935. The magnitude of an earthquake is the logarithm of the amplitude of the waves measured by the seismographs. Richter scale magnitudes are expressed as a whole number and a decimal part, for example 6.3 or 5.2. Since it is a logarithmic scale, an increase of the whole number by one unit signifies a tenfold increase in the amplitude of the wave and a 31-times increase of the energy released.

How are zones designated?

■ Based on seismicity, intensity of earthquakes experienced, and geological and tectonic qualities of a region, countries are divided into several zones. In India, for example, there are four zones, designated Zone II-Zone V. Among these, Zone V is the most hazardous and Zone II the least hazardous.

Can you build early warning systems for earthquakes?

■ Since parameters of the earthquake are unknown, it is near impossible to predict an earthquake. The problem with earthquakes is that they are heavily dependent on the material property, which varies from place to place, says Professor Rai. If there are elastic waves propagating through a material, there are two kinds of waves – the primary wave which reaches first, and the second one called the secondary wave, which is more destructive. Suppose the primary wave is measured, and we have efficient computer systems, all the inputs and excellent data collection, then it can be said that a possible earthquake of this much magnitude and energy has occurred and this could lead to a ground amplitude which could be destructive. If it is known that the amount of energy released is extremely high, trains and power grids can be shut down and the damage minimised. "This has worked in some locations, but not on a large commercial basis," says Prof. Rai. "The most successful early warning systems are in Japan. They have several hundreds of thousands recording devices. Responses are sent to a central point where they estimate whether it is large enough to form a tsunami or some other hazard, and precautionary steps are taken," he points out.

How will G-7's development plan impact India?

What is the agritech and climate sustainability fund? Will India get adequate funds for infrastructure?

SUHASINI HAIDAR

New challenges: Leaders of the G7 and the European Union at the G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau, Germany on June 26. • AP

The story so far: On June 26, the G-7 grouping of the world's "most industrialised nations" – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the U.K., Japan and the U.S. along with the European Union (EU) – launched a U.S.-led $600 billion Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) at their summit in Germany's Schloss Elmau, where India was among five special invitees. The initiative was billed as a "values-driven, high-impact, and transparent infrastructure partnership to meet the enormous infrastructure needs of low- and middle-income countries and support the U.S. and its allies' economic and national security interests." Officials also made it clear that the PGII would offer a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for projects worldwide that was formally launched five years ago.

What was India's response?

■ A day after U.S. President Joseph Biden made his PGII announcement, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said. "I think the [PGII]...is a separate G-7 initiative and to my recollection, unless there is some other input, I think it is not a G-7 outreach initiative," adding, "We will have to see the details of that for us to be able to speak specifically on its elements."

Why is the response significant?

■ To begin with, Mr. Kwatra's response indicates that India was not privy to PGII consultations, nor was the infrastructure plan part of the documents that were signed by India, Indonesia, South Africa, Senegal and Argentina, who were part of the "G-7 outreach" invitees to the summit. (The EU has participated in the G-7 since 1981 as a "nonenumerated" member).

The distinction is interesting because just a month ago, at the Quad Summit in Tokyo, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the launch of the U.S. led "Indo-Pacific Economic Initiative" (IPEF) with similarly sudden plans, and India had joined as an "initial" or founding partner country. It also came as a surprise that India hadn't endorsed the PGII plan given that the U.S. billed it as a rival to China's BRI, with much more sensitivity to sustainable debt burdens and environmental concerns. India has actively opposed the BRI because it had ignored these reasons and for its "violation of territorial integrity".

Is there any specific role for India?

■ According to U.S. officials, the PGII will have four key priorities on infrastructure: climate and energy security, digital connectivity, health and health security, and gender equality and equity, all of which are priority areas for New Delhi as well. The PGII "factsheet" released by the White House also includes a specific plan for investment in an Agritech and Climate sustainability fund that would "invest in companies that increase food security and promote both climate resilience and climate adaptation in India, as well as improve the profitability and agricultural productivity of smallholder farms." According to the documents, the India fund would target $65 million by September 2022, and a target capitalisation of $130 million in 2023. The U.S. government's International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) would mobilise $30 million in private capital for the fund.

What could be some of the reasons for India's reticence on PGII?

■ The Ministry of External Affairs has not yet expanded on its initial response to the PGII, and it is quite possible, that once it has studied and verified its strategy, it will endorse it. One of the reasons for some scepticism in New Delhi is that the PGII is one of a number of U.S.-led economic initiatives announced globally and in the Indo-Pacific, without much clarity on whether they would overlap, or run concurrently with each other. At the Quad Summit, Mr. Biden committed to a $50 billion infrastructure fund over five years.

The PGII will have four key priorities on infrastructure: climate and energy security, digital connectivity, health and health security, and gender equality and equity

The PGII announcement for $600 billion over five years also comes a year after the U.S. led a G-7 initiative to counter China's "strategic competition" and to narrow the roughly $40 trillion "infrastructure gap" in the developing world.

Last year, the Biden administration also revived a Trump administration project for the "Blue Dot Network Initiative" to certify infrastructure projects but had stopped short of funding them. Another reason for the Indian reaction, say analysts, could be to show consistency, given India's earlier reaction to the BRI, when it was first announced by Xi Jinping in 2013, years before the formal launch in 2017. "When China first unveiled the BRI, India's initial response was also that this was a plan with geopolitical consequences that India had not been consulted on. India said it would have to study before responding. It is possible that the Modi government's cautiousness on PGII is about striking a similar balance," said Sanjaya Baru, author, policy analyst and Distinguished Fellow at the United Services Institution of India (USI).

What are the next steps for the GST regime?

Why have rates been hiked for some consumer items? When will the issue of compensation to States be decided?

VIKAS DHOOT

The story so far: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, met for the first time in 2022 for a marathon two-day meet this week, just ahead of GST's fifth birthday on July 1. The Council has okayed three ministerial groups' reports, one of which will lead to changes in the tax rates applicable on several items.

What are the goods and services whose rates have been increased?

■ Based on recommendations made by a Group of Ministers (GoM) led by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, the GST Council has scrapped exemptions on several goods and services, done away with concessional rates granted for a few products, and altered tax rates up or down in other cases. Health care devices such as orthopaedic splints, intraocular lens, ostomy appliances, will now be taxed at 5% instead of 12%. The use of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) services have been exempted, truck rentals for goods will be taxed at 12% (down from 18%) and the GST on ropeways has been lowered from 18% to 5%. However, stem cell preservation services will no longer be tax-free. Hospital room rents over ₹5,000 a day, excluding patients in intensive care units or ICUs, shall now be taxed at 5%. Tetra Pak, used for an increasing number of goods as an alternative to plastic packaging, will now be taxed at 18%, from 12% – which could nudge up costs of several consumer goods. The same 18% rate will apply to tar of all varieties so expect road building costs to rise as well. The Council also hiked rates on over 17 goods and services, where the final products had a lower tax rate than their inputs and led to an anomaly referred to as inverted duty structures. Of these, as many as 10 items' GST rate has been raised to 18% from 5% or 12% prevalent till now, such as writing, drawing and printing ink, knives, forks, spoons, pencil sharpeners, machines for grading farm products as well as eggs and dairy items, LED lamps, solar water heaters and works contracts for building roads, railways, metro projects, and crematoria. Last but not the least, the GST levied on cut and polished diamonds has been raised from 0.25% to 1.5%.

Anniversary special: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the celebration of the 5th GST Day on July 1. • PTI

Why does it matter?

■ The Reserve Bank of India expects India's inflation rate, which hit an eight-year high of 7.8% in April and remained over 7% in May, to average 6.7% in 2022-23. Ms. Sitharaman said the Council members were conscious of inflation concerns while approving the rate changes. It is too early to discern the possible impact of the new tax rates on the overall inflation experience and how much of it will be captured in the official data. With all these rate changes slated to kick in from July 18, any impact can only be gauged when August consumer inflation numbers are released in the second week of September. Even then, with prices of several commodities, including crude oil, remaining elevated, distilling the effect of new GST rates on price rise may not be simple.

Moreover, the panel led by Mr. Bommai has been granted three more months to delve into its other mandate that could have a wider impact on consumers and businesses – rationalising the multiple GST rate slabs such as 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% and raising levies to bolster revenues that have fallen short of expectations. Part of the reason for dipping revenues, apart from a slowing economy in recent years, was the repeated reduction in several items' GST rates ahead of critical elections. However, officials concede that inflation worries do not make this an opportune time for carrying out broader rate hikes.

What lies ahead?

■ The Council will meet again in August to finalise the GST rates for online gaming, horse racing and casinos – a decision it put off this time for fresh stakeholder consultations. It may also kick off the process to form an appellate tribunal for resolving GST disputes, envisaged since its launch in July 2017. With over a dozen States urging the Centre to continue the GST compensation paid to them for the first five years of the GST regime as revenue flows have been hit by the pandemic, it is hoped that clarity comes through on this issue by the August meeting. Any extension of assured revenues to States could, however, translate into further pain for consumers and industry, who already have to fork out the GST Compensation Cess levied on products such as cars and soft drinks, till March 2026, instead of the June 2022 sunset promised earlier.

Is NATO stronger after Ukraine invasion?

Has Russia's war strengthened the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a security alliance formed after WWII?

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The story so far: Leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a 30-country regional security coalition that emerged from the crucible of Cold War rivalry, met on June 29-30 in Madrid, Spain, even as Russia's war in Ukraine grinds on, with knock-on effects across the world in terms of supply chain disruptions, commodity price surges and broader inflationary pressures mounting fast. More than four months into the invasion of Ukrainian territory, which Russian President Vladimir Putin has called a "special military operation," at least two nations in the region, Sweden and Finland, are seeking rapid integration into NATO.

How strong was NATO before the war?

■ NATO appeared to be weakened during the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump, who frequently threatened to exclude from the U.S.'s protective umbrella any member states that did not pay enough for that privilege. A further blow, and brickbats for botched management, came when U.S. President Joe Biden pulled his country's troops out of Afghanistan, a NATO military mission, more or less unilaterally. Meanwhile, Russia had steadily been upping the ante against NATO publicly, since the late 2000s, railing against NATO expansion, and since its annexation of Crimea in 2014, threatening further territorial expansion into Ukrainian territory.

What are the recent developments that have strengthened NATO?

■ Firstly, NATO allies other than the U.S. remained firmly committed to financing the organisation's military needs. Their combined defence investments have jumped by $130 billion from 2014-19, in part driven by Russia's annexation of Crimea. Now, given the prolonged conflict in Ukraine, NATO has announced that it will increase its forces at "high readiness" from 40,000 to over 3,00,000 troops by mid-2023, a step that NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg described as "the biggest overhaul of our collective defence and deterrence since the Cold War."

Second, after decades of maintaining a position of neutrality, Finland and Sweden are set to join NATO possibly within a year, in a large part driven by the strategic insecurity they face as neighbours of Russia, and the precedent that Mr. Putin has set with his invasion of and alleged human rights violations and war crimes in Ukraine. While most NATO members are keen for Finland and Sweden to join the organisation, Turkey was the final holdout citing concerns over the two countries allegedly providing safe haven to a group that Istanbul considers a terrorist organisation. Nevertheless, after joint security negotiations in recent days, Turkey has also lent its support to Finland and Sweden joining NATO. The main point of such an expansion would be to tap into the military support that the two countries would provide to the alliance, the fact that Finland has a 1,340 km border with Russia and that both countries will, as required by NATO, spend 2% of their GDP on defence.

How might NATO view a prolonged war in Ukraine?

■ Meeting with NATO leaders this past week, Mr. Biden said Americans ought to be ready to pay higher fuel prices for "as long as it takes, so Russia cannot in fact defeat Ukraine and move beyond Ukraine." Notwithstanding this apparent firmness of resolve to stay the course, NATO member states are presently hobbled by rising inflation, and high energy and food prices. Leaving aside the destabilising economic ripple effects of the war in Ukraine, leaders of the bloc, as well as international multilateral aid agencies, are waking up to the reality of having to meet the scorching demand for financing weaponry and critical supplies to Kyiv – Ukraine's government is spending a staggering $5-6 billion per month. It is now clear that they will have to work hard to sell their involvement in this conflict to their respective citizenries.

What happens next?

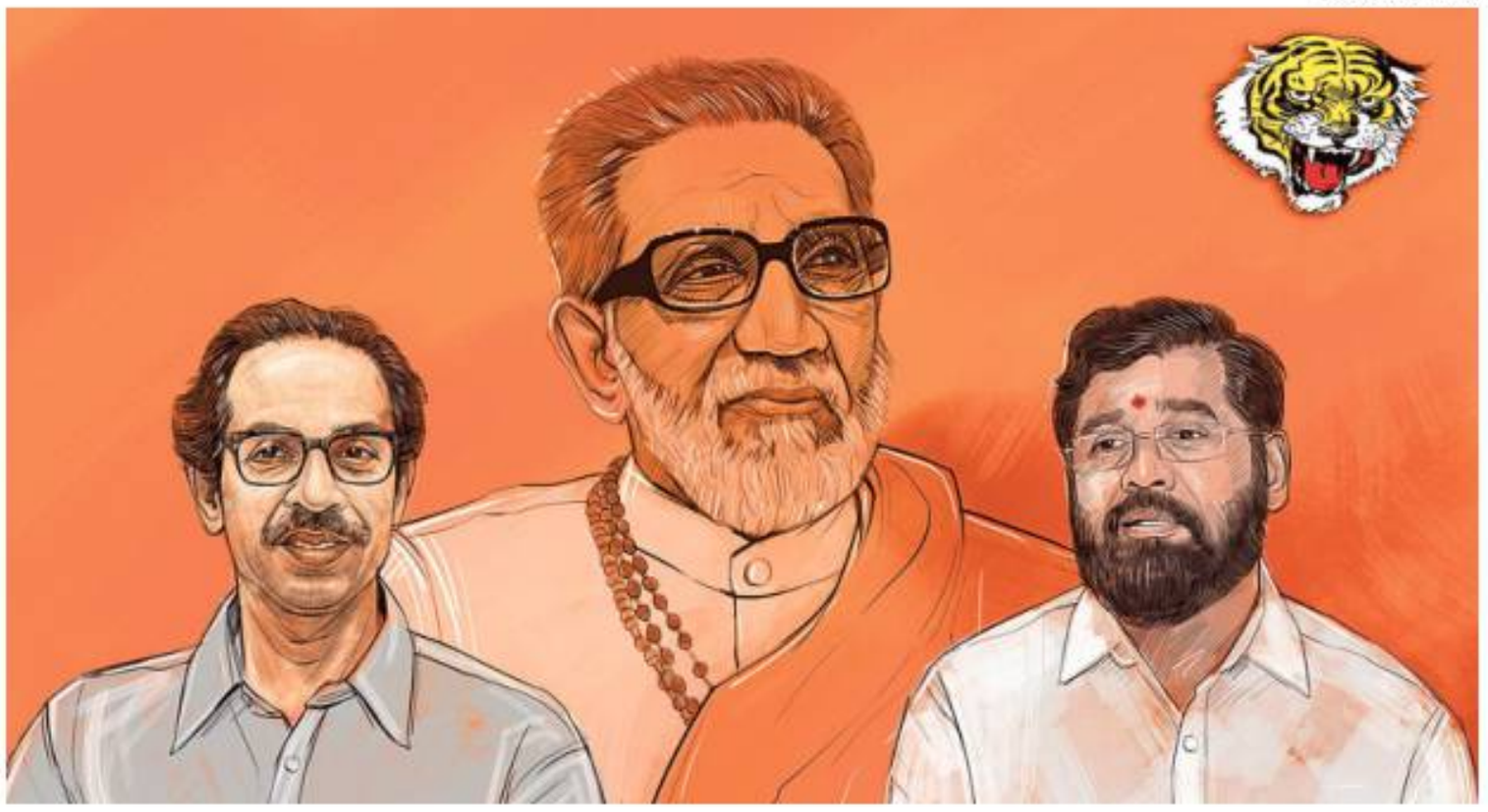
■ While NATO appears fortified and ready to face the strategic gauntlet thrown down by Russia, there is a real risk that the people of its member-nations are getting increasingly frustrated. There's unending economic pain and the leaders have pledged to meet the burgeoning demand for weapons and other military support required by Ukraine to hold on to its territories in the east.

SHIV SENA

The Maratha tiger in its labyrinth

With a revolt toppling his government, Uddhav Thackeray faces a legitimacy crisis as he struggles to retain his hold over the party rank and file

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH



In Focus

- Founded in June 1966 with its avowed aim of safeguarding the welfare of the people of Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena built a social base on its 'sons of the soil' agenda
- The party, which initially fought elections in alliance with Congress factions, cut all ties with the party in the 1980s and emerged as the main Hindutva force in Maharashtra
- Cracks started appearing in the Sena-BJP alliance before the 2014 assembly elections, eventually leading to a split between the parties after the 2019 polls

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

In the fall of 2012, an ailing Bal Thackeray, founder and patriarch of Maharashtra's then dominant right-wing party – the Shiv Sena (Army of Shivaji) – had appealed to his Shiv Sainiks to stand by his son Uddhav and grandson Aaditya Thackeray.

In what would be his final address to his party workers, Bal Thackeray, in his pre-recorded speech at the party's annual Dussehra rally in Mumbai's Shivaji Park, called upon the Marathi manoos (Marathi-speaking sons-of-the soil) to remain united and smash the Congress. The speech, three weeks before the 86-year-old Thackeray's death in November that year, also had an implied appeal to his estranged nephew, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, to join forces with the Shiv Sena.

A decade later, while the prospects of the Sena and the MNS uniting have completely evaporated, a bleaker question facing Mr. Uddhav and his son today is whether ordinary Sainiks will stand by them after the recent rebellion of 40 MLAs led by Eknath Shinde has rent the Shiv Sena asunder while toppling Mr. Uddhav from the Chief Minister's post.

In many ways, Mr. Shinde's revolt, which saw him installed as Maharashtra Chief Minister, aided and abetted by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is the culmination of a question that has haunted the Sena leadership since 2012 – the existence of their party without its authoritarian embodiment, Bal Thackeray. That Mr. Shinde, the dour, laconic, erstwhile autorickshaw driver from Thane and a dyed-in-the-wool Shiv Sainik, would be the linchpin of the BJP and its State leader Devendra Fadnavis's 'master plan' to checkmate Mr. Uddhav and his tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government exposed the chinks in the latter's armour.

One of the chief complaints of the rebel camp was Mr. Uddhav's "deference" to the NCP and the Congress. Yet, the Sena's alliance with the Congress in 2019 was hardly novel, given its past dalliance with the grand old party in the 1970s.

Strange alliances

In fact, the vicissitudes of the Sena – from Bal Thackeray's rise in the mid-1960s to Mr. Uddhav's acrimonious break with the BJP and fall from power – follow decades of murky twists and strange alliances. Founded in June 1966 with its avowed aim of safeguarding the welfare of the people of Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena tasted popular success almost immediately with its 'sons of the soil' agenda, with Bal Thackeray persuasively highlighting the plight of unemployed Marathi youth through the party's weekly *Marmik*.

Since the Sena's inception, Bal Thackeray skilfully blended the nativist appeal of the Marathi Manoos with Hindu nationalism, anchored in the persona of Chhatrapati Shivaji, the 17th century Maratha warrior king. But it also added a strong dose of social service in the mix, enabling its appeal not only among the urban sections but the slum areas as well.

With its iconic 'Tiger' logo and bow and arrow symbol, the Sena's first meeting in Dadar's Shivaji Park on June 19, 1966 became steeped in political legend, attracting a reported crowd of no less than 200,000 persons instead of the handful expected.

Soon, rioting against South Indian establishments became a matter of course. But it was in its covert role as a 'hatchet-man outfit' for the ruling Congress to crack down on the once-vibrant trade union movement in Mumbai that shot the Shiv Sena to notoriety. The relentless onslaught of the Shiv Sena's 'storm troops' against the Communists and socialists climaxed with the murder of Krishna Desai, a sitting MLA of the Communist Party of India (CPI) from Parel, in 1970. It marked the start of the Sena's transformation of the city's political landscape – from 'Red Bombay' to 'Saffron Mumbai'.

Having destroyed the trade unions, the party simultaneously began building a serious base among industrial workers through its own outfits – the Bharatiya Kamgar Sena, the Shramik Sena, Municipal Workers' Union, the BEST employees' Union, among others.

From a non-political outfit, the party promptly transitioned to a political one, contesting the civic elections in Mumbai and Thane. In 1971, it fielded three candidates for the Lok Sabha in an alliance with the Congress (O), but failed to win any. Despite hardly being pro-Congress in temper, its support for the party for political gain continued in the form of approving Indira Gandhi's Emergency while allying with the Congress (I) and fielding candidates in 1978 Maharashtra Assembly election, where it again lost all seats.

It was only in the mid- to late 1980s when Bal Thackeray subtly shifted the party's stance of 'Marathi manoos' to 'Hindutva', that the Sena cut its ties with the Congress.

Piggybacking on the BJP's Ayodhya agitation, the Sena's credentials as a hammer of 'Hindutva' were forged in the crucible of the Bombay riots of 1992-93, where the party was said to have orchestrated much of the violence that followed the demolition of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

While the BJP made gains at the national level, in Maharashtra, Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena was still the elder 'Hindutva' brother to whom BJP leaders like Gopinath Munde and Pramod Mahajan deferred to. When the Sena first formed the government in Maharashtra with the BJP in 1995, Bal Thackeray preferred to remain the 'remote control' behind the throne, pushing his partyman Manohar Joshi as the Chief Minister. Out of power by the end of 1999, the turn of the century saw a marked decline in the Sena's political fortunes,

Since the Sena's inception, Bal Thackeray skilfully blended its nativist appeal with Hindu nationalist sentiment, anchored in the persona of Chhatrapati Shivaji

despite Bal Thackeray's iron hand still firmly controlling Mumbai city. While the party's resource and financial lifeline remained the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mr. Thackeray's autocratic style, growing nepotism and corruption within the party brass saw a number of cracks within the party organisation.

On the other hand, Bal Thackeray's death in 2012 and the transfer of power within the party to Mr. Uddhav coincided with the ascendancy of Narendra Modi and the BJP at the Centre in 2014. The BJP's projection of Devendra Fadnavis in the State, a very different political operator than the Sena-deferring BJP leaders like Munde and Mahajan, was to bring momentous changes in relationships between the saffron allies.

Uneasy coalition

The first serious split between the Sena and the BJP came before the Assembly polls, after Mr. Uddhav severed ties with the latter reportedly over seat-sharing arrangements. However, the 2014 election results – which saw the BJP win 122 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly as opposed to the Sena's 63 – validated the 'Modi wave' sweeping the country.

Compulsions of power saw a forced patch-up between the BJP and the Sena under Mr. Fadnavis' Chief Ministership, but the friction stayed on. While the Sena and the BJP fought both general and Assembly elections in 2019 together, the resentment between the two finally came to a head over the CM's post, with Mr. Uddhav formally severing all ties with the BJP to go into the arms of Sharad Pawar's NCP and the Congress. Mr. Pawar, the architect of the MVA, egged Mr. Uddhav to take the CM's post, while the NCP helped itself with prime portfolios. This stoked the ire of staunch Shiv Sainiks like Mr. Shinde.

Mr. Uddhav's projection of Aaditya as the face of the party and the forming of a Thackeray coterie of confidantes increasingly alienated Sena MLAs on the ground.

It was following the BJP's gains in the Rajya Sabha bypolls and Maharashtra Legislative Council elections last month (which saw the party have the support of 133 MLAs in the 288-member State Legislature) that the blow came when Mr. Shinde finally revolted.

Following the Shinde-Fadnavis coup, Mr. Uddhav faces a serious legitimacy crisis as he struggles to retain his hold over the party rank and file. The Uddhav camp claims there can be no Sena without the Thackerays. But cold electoral results have shown that Bal Thackeray's legacy scarcely mattered in the first Assembly election after his death (in 2014), when the Sena failed to secure a majority. With the MVA in tatters and Uddhav burning his bridges with the BJP, the question is, will that legacy matter now?

MOHAMMED ZUBAIR

The man who chased facts

The Alt News journalist was arrested over a tweet of an image from an old film

MAHESH LANGA

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

"They cannot file a complaint against me for writing a story because we have facts with us in our stories," Mohammed Zubair, the co-founder of fact-check website Alt News, said in an interview in October 2021. "They cannot attack us on the story that we've written, so they are looking to attack me for any other unrelated tweet." A Twitter sensation with over half-a-million followers, Mr. Zubair was both loved and loathed on the social networks. While many applaud the efforts by Alt News, the website he co-founded with Pratik Sinha, to debunk disinformation and misinformation campaigns, his critics, mainly those in the right-wing online ecosystem, have repeatedly targeted him.

On June 27, the 39-year-old journalist was arrested by the Delhi Police, based on a complaint from an anonymous Twitter handle that alleged that Mr. Zubair hurt religious sentiments over a tweet he sent out four years ago and that he should be prosecuted for the same. The tweet was of an image from a 40-year-old film. The FIR lodged by the Delhi Police, which works under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), initially invoked Sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 295-A (malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings) of the Indian Penal Code. Subsequently, on July 2, additional charges, including criminal conspiracy and destruction of evidence, along with Section 35 of the FCRA, or the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, were applied.

Rise to prominence

A computer engineer-turned-journalist, Mr. Zubair, who had earlier worked with Nokia, joined hands with Mr. Sinha, also a former software engineer, to launch Alt News in 2017.

Within no time, the website rose to prominence for its diligent work, at a time when fake news was being spread on digital platforms like wildfire. They have compiled a list of more than 40 fake news sources on various social media platforms, and repeatedly called out disinformation campaigns and fake reports. Recently, Mr. Sinha and Mr. Zubair were named by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo in its yearly shortlist for the Nobel Peace Prize.

This is not the first time Mr. Zubair is facing legal cases. In 2020, two FIRs were lodged against him – one in New Delhi and the other in Chhattisgarh – under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act for alleged "online harassment and torture" of a minor girl.

In June 2022, before his arrest by the Delhi Police, he was named in an FIR lodged in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by calling Hindu religious figures Mahant Bajrang Muni, Yati Narsinghanand and Swami Anand Swarup "hatemongers" on Twitter after their inflammatory speeches, openly calling for violence against Muslims. Angry with his work, right-wing elements have often called him an "Islamist" and a "jihadist", while demanding legal action against him and Alt News. His arrest came after he highlighted the controversial comments made by Nupur Sharma, now suspended from the BJP, that caused international embarrassment to the government.

After the Nupur Sharma controversy, Mr. Zubair had told media that the threats against him and his family had increased and this time the threats looked "serious and real". Hashtags such as #ArrestZubair" started trending on Twitter. A day after his arrest, Mr. Zubair gave a statement, saying he was being targeted for his "name and his profession". His lawyer Vrinda Grover, while arguing for his bail, submitted that "many had tweeted the same; the only difference between those handles and mine is my faith, my name and my profession".

The arrest has triggered sharp responses from both within and outside the country. Stephane Dujarric, a spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said, while responding to Mr. Zubair's arrest, "it is very important that people be allowed to express themselves freely, journalists be allowed to express themselves freely and without the threat of any harassment."

Mr. Zubair is still in jail. But Mr. Sinha says the arrest would not have any impact on the journalism Alt News does. "We at @AltNews will continue to fight misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, and keep holding people and organisations accountable, and nothing can stop that," he tweeted on June 28.

SNAKE ISLAND

Battle for the Black Sea

Ukrainian troops have pushed the enemy farther away from Odessa's coast

STANLY JOHNY

On June 29, 1788, imperial Russian troops laid siege to Ozi, an Ottoman fortress on the northern Black Sea coast. On the same day, a Russian naval squadron, commanded by Admiral M.I. Voinovich, left Sevastopol in Crimea for Ozi. Their mission was to prevent any Turkish attack on the Crimean shores and also to offer support to the Russian ground troops at Ozi. But in the Black Sea waters, the Russians were encountered by a far superior Turkish squadron. After days of manoeuvring in the open sea, on July 14, near a small island in the north-west of the Black Sea, fighting broke out. After hours-long battle, the Russians inflicted deadly damage on the Turkish fleet and forced them to retreat.

The Battle of Fidonisi, named after the island which was called Fidonisi by the Greeks, was the first naval battle of the 1787-1792 Russo-Turkish War. While the Russian victory in the waters near Fidonisi did not have an immediate impact on the war, the defeat of the superior Ottoman Navy was a morale booster for the Russian troops. Five months later, Russian troops stormed Ozi, captured the town and renamed it as Ochakov, which is now home to Ukraine Navy's operational control centre.

Fidonisi is now called the Snake Island. On the first day of President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, Russia's Navy seized the island, which lies just 35 km off Ukraine's southwestern coast. For over four months, the Russians held the island under their control, while they made battlefield gains in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region. But on Thursday, faced with relentless Ukrainian attacks, Russia announced that it was exiting the island. For the Ukrainian troops which suffered back-to-back defeats in the Donbas and took heavy casualties in recent weeks, the ouster of the invading forces from the Snake Island (also called Zmiinyi Island) is a rare battlefield victory.

Outsize role

The island covering just 0.17 square km (roughly the size of 20 football fields) has played an outsize role in most of the wars Russia fought in the Black Sea since the Battle of Fidonisi. It came under the control of Romania in 1877. In the First World War, Russia, in an alliance with Romania, had operated a wireless station on the island, which was destroyed by Ottoman warships. During the Second World War, Romania, which had joined the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, allowed the Axis powers to establish a radio station on the island.

The Nazis and the Romanians had mined the waters around the island during the war to stop the Soviet submarines and vessels from getting closer. But in 1944, as the momentum of the war had clearly shifted in favour of the Soviet Union, Romanian troops were forced to exit the island. Four years later, as part of a frontier delimitation protocol signed between Romania and the Soviet Union, the Snake Island came under the rule of Moscow. It would stay so until Ukraine became an independent country in 1991, along with several other republics, as the Soviet Union collapsed.

There was a maritime border dispute between Ukraine and Romania in the waters around the Snake Island, which was resolved in 2009. At that time, Ukraine had said the island was home to some 100 people, including military personnel, scientists, their families and keepers of the lighthouse, which was built in 1842 by Russia's Black Sea Fleet and rebuilt several times thereafter. The largely rocky outcrop has only one village, Bile, which was founded in 2007. Ukraine wanted to build a settlement on the island, but it, once again, turned out to be the focus of Russia's battle to control the Black Sea.

The capture of the island on February 24 allowed Russia to tighten its naval blockade on Ukraine. But the defence of the island, which was in Ukraine's artillery range, became increasingly difficult after Russia lost its flagship *Moskva* on April 14. Ever since, Ukraine has stepped up attacks not just on the Russian forces defending the island, but also the supply ships. When the defence became increasingly costly, Russia finally decided to make a pull-back.

This doesn't mean that Ukrainian troops can take direct control of the island, because they might also come under fire from Russian warships. But Ukraine has clearly pushed the enemy farther away from Odessa, its 'pearl of the Black Sea', and taken a tactical victory, for now.

'Taxpayers facing issues accessing e-filing portal'

'Infosys dealing with irregular traffic'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

As taxpayers face issues in accessing the e-filing portal, the Income Tax department on Saturday said software provider Infosys was taking 'proactive measures' to deal with the 'irregular traffic' on the portal.

"It has been noticed that taxpayers are facing issues in accessing ITD e-filing portal. As informed by @Infosys, they have observed some irregular traffic on the portal for which proactive measures are being taken," the I-T department tweeted.

Bumpy start

The new e-filing portal www.incometax.gov.in, introduced on June 7, 2021, had a bumpy start with taxpayers and professionals reporting glitches and difficulties in its functioning. Infosys was contracted in 2019 to develop the portal.

More recently, the portal faced snags on the first anniversary of its introduction and many users had complained that they were unable to log in into the portal, while some complained of malfunctioning of the search functionality.

The government had paid ₹164.5 crore to Infosys to build the new income tax e-filing portal.

India-EU to hold next round of FTA talks at Brussels in Sept.

Negotiators concluded first round of parleys on trade, investment on July 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

High stakes: The EU is a key trading partner, with bilateral trade in fiscal 2021-22 amounting to $116.36 billion. • PTI

India and the European Union (EU) concluded the first round of talks for the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) on Friday and the next round of talks is scheduled at Brussels in September, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Saturday.

India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17, after a gap of more than eight years, on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and geographical indications (GI). The first round of talks, which began on June 27, concluded on July 1.

India's FTA negotiations were led by chief negotiator Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce and the EU was represented by its chief negotiator Christophe Kiener, the Ministry said in a statement.

The week-long negotiations were held in a hybrid fashion - with some of the teams meeting in Delhi and the majority of officials joining virtually.

During the first round, 52 technical sessions covering 18 policy areas of FTA and seven sessions on investment protection and GIs were held, it added.

India's bilateral trade with the EU amounted to $116.36 billion in 2021-22.

Second-largest market

The EU is India's second-largest trading partner, after the U.S., and the second-largest destination for Indian exports, the Ministry said.

"The trade agreement with the EU would help India further expand and diversify its exports of goods and services, including securing the value chains," the Ministry said. "Both sides are aiming for the trade negotiations to be broad-based, balanced, and comprehensive, based on the principles of fairness and reciprocity," it added.

Russia slashes tax on sunoil to spur exports

Levy cut to $163.3/tonne from $560.1

REUTERS

Sanctions-hit Russia has reduced its sunflower oil export tax sharply after changing the formula it uses for calculating it, to support shipments while its rouble currency hovers near multi-year highs, the Agriculture Ministry said.

The sunflower oil export tax is set at 8,408.7 roubles ($163.3 at the current rate) per tonne for July, the Ministry said.

The tax for July was previously set at $560.1 a tonne. The sharp reduction happened after the Russian government set the base price for the tax calculation on Friday at 82,500 roubles per tonne of sunflower oil instead of the previous $1,000 a tonne. The new July tax is based on an indicative price of $1,800.2 a tonne, the Ministry said.

The rouble strengthened to seven-year highs this week, supported by capital controls, but is expected to depreciate in the longer term and lost almost 6% on Friday in Moscow trade. It closed at 51.50 to the dollar on the inter-bank market on Friday, stronger than the Moscow close of 54.50.

U.S. factory activity slows to 2-year low as economy cools

June ISM manufacturing index falls 3.1 points to 53.0

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

U.S. manufacturing activity slowed more than expected in June, with a measure of new orders contracting for the first time in two years, signs that the economy was cooling amid aggressive monetary policy tightening by the Federal Reserve.

The survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) also showed a gauge of factory employment contracting for a second straight month, though an 'overwhelming majority' of firms indicated they were hiring.

The slowdown in manufacturing followed moderate consumer spending growth in May along with weak housing starts and building permits, which left some economists anticipating that the economy contracted again in the second quarter following a slump in gross domestic product in the first three months. Another decline in GDP would not necessarily indicate a recession unless the economy suffers deep job losses.

"This does not suggest that a recession is on the way yet, but growth conditions continue to decelerate broadly in response to Fed tightening and extended cost pressures for consumers and businesses," said Ben Ayers, a senior economist at Nationwide.

The ISM survey's index of national factory activity dropped to 53.0 last month, the lowest reading since June 2020, when the sector was rebounding from a COVID-19 slump. That followed a reading of 56.1 in May. The index would need to decline to 43.1 to signal a recession.

Swiss group Gurit opens composite unit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Swiss firm Gurit Group has set up an an advanced composite-solutions plant at Oragadam at an investment of ₹250 crore.

Gurit Wind Pvt. will provide direct employment to 300 people, the firm said.

"This facility will be home to all our Gurit wind-related activities like mould making, manufacturing solutions, extrusion of recycled PET, engineering and customising of core material kits as well as pultruded carbon profiles which will then be converted to spar caps for wind blades," said CEO Mitja Schulz. "Soon, this will be Gurit's biggest manufacturing plant on the planet."

Pearson keen to add digital learning platform in India

Company building hybrid solutions in test preparation: MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Siddharth Banerjee

Pearson India, a unit of the U.K.-based learning company Pearson plc, plans to focus on building a digital and direct-to-consumer (DtC) portfolio to cater to learners, said Siddharth Banerjee, Managing Director, India & Asia.

"We are working with institutions and world-class authors to build rich, credible, and high-quality content (such as the Marketing Management 16e by Pearson) to provide learners with 21st century education, knowledge, and global perspective," he said.

The company was building hybrid solutions in test preparation to offer quality resources, coupled with innovative digital platforms for an enhanced learning experience, Mr. Banerjee added.

The firm would also focus on English language learning by delivering AI-based assessments for enterprises, students and working professionals, he said.

Noting that the pandemic had proved to be transformational for the education and learning sector, Mr. Banerjee said the company was working to become the preferred partner of choice for learners, educators and government.

"To do this, we need to address the challenges of affordable access, quality learning, and employability in the education ecosystem which is why we are focusing on strengthening our product portfolio and DtC proposition," he said.

JSW One to set up 25 'Homes Studio' units

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

JSW One Homes, the home construction solutions arm of JSW One Platforms, plans to strengthen its retail network in the South and in Maharashtra by adding 25 'Homes Studio' facilities by March, according to CEO Gaurav Sachdeva.

"Currently, we are present in Coimbatore, Bengaluru and Chennai, and have two 'Homes Studio' in Tamil Nadu. We will be entering six more cities before the end of this fiscal," Mr. Sachdeva said.

The Homes Studio will serve as a full-service emporium for all home-construction needs for customers planning to build their own houses, he said.

SPORT

IN BRIEF

Saha gets NOC from CAB

KOLKATA

International cricketer Wriddhiman Saha on Saturday got a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB). This paved the way for the experienced wicketkeeper-batter to represent some other state association in the forthcoming domestic season. Saha refused to play for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy knockout stage after reports suggested that he was upset over some remarks made by a CAB official.

Abhay Singh wins his second PSA crown

SEREMBAN (MALAYSIA)

Unseeed Abhay Singh bagged his second PSA title, defeating second seed Ivan Yuen of Malaysia 13-11, 6-11, 11-5, 4-11, 13-11 in the final of the Tuanku Muhriz Trophy international squash tournament, here on Saturday. Abhay had won his maiden title in the Archi Factory Open at Lorient (France) in May.

Maldini signs new 2-year deal with AC Milan

MILAN

Paolo Maldini will stay on as AC Milan technical director after signing a new two-year contract on Friday. Maldini and sporting director Frederic Massara, who has also signed a two-year extension, took Milan from the doldrums to the top of the Italian game. Maldini played over 900 times for Milan. AFP

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Champions: Neeti and Teshub won the under-15 titles. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Triumphant: The victorious Beijing Bites squash squad. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Teshub and Neeti take the honours

Teshub Dinesh and Neeti Agarwal emerged the boys' and girls' under-15 singles winners respectively at the Karnataka State-ranking table tennis tournament. While Teshub defeated Siddhant Vasan 11-7, 11-7, 11 -9, 11-6, Neeti overcame Ayushi B. Godse 11-3, 6-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 9-11, 16-14.

Easy for Dakshina Kannada

Goals from Mohammed Hassan and Faraz Ahmed secured Dakshina Kannada a 2-0 win over Kolar in the final of the KSFA inter-district football tournament here on Saturday.

The result: Dakshina Kannada DFA 2 (Mohammed Hassan 5, Faraz Ahmed 15) bt Kolar DFA 0.

Beijing Bites wins title

Beijing Bites defeated Teal Terrastrials 4-0 in the final to clinch the Bangalore Squash League title on Friday.

The result: Beijing Bites bt Teal Terrastrials 4-0 (Vishal Aswath bt Isaiah Somanna 3-0; Raghu Mallena bt Rohan Shridhar 3-0; Murtaza Khan bt Sadanand Shastri 3-2; Pranay Merchant bt Ravi Madabushi 3-0).

Team Formidables wins gold event

Team Formidabales defeated Team Hope N Prey by 93 IMPs to win the gold event at the 11th Tolani Summer National Bridge Championships being held here. The winning team was represented by Keyzad Anklesaria, Rajeshwar Tewari, Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder, J.B. Shivdasani and Sandeep Thakral.

In the silver event, Team TBP defeated Guptas by 82 IMPs. The TBP team was represented by the youngsters Arya Chakraborty, Souadeep Ghosh, Souvik Kar, Surajit Bar and Aritra Bhattacharya. The first four are part of the U-31 team which will represent India at the World Junior Championship 2022.

Clinical Kothari pockets the title

Eases past Rawat in the final to claim the ₹2 lakh prize

SNOOKER

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Too good: Kothari got everything right in the final against Rawat, left. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sourav Kothari breezed past Laxman Rawat in the best-of-13 frame final of the National Sports Club of India-organised ₹6.4 lakh all-India snooker open Baulkline 2022 at the NSCI billiards hall on Saturday.

Kothari, clinical and precise with his potting, cruised to a 7-2 win (95-17, 37-75, 64-05, 70-77, 116-01, 124-05, 70-23, 91-50, 71-39).

The champion took home ₹2 lakh and runner-up Rawat ₹1 lakh.

The 37-year-old Kothari compiled breaks of 65 (1st frame), 58 (4th), 83 (5th) and 107 (6th) while Laxman managed a break of 63 in the fourth.

The results: Final: Sourav Kothari (PSPB) bt Laxman Rawat (PSPB) 7-2 (95(65)-17, 37-75, 64-05, 70(58)-77(63), 116 (83)-01, 124(107)-05, 70-23, 91-50, 71-39).

Semifinal: Rawat bt Ishpreet Singh Chadha (Mah) 6-4 (08-83(75), 78(50)-40, 12-78, 49-76, 114(71)-11, 119(46,64)-1, 33-73, 62-0, 77-9, 74-30).

Balaji-Jeevan duo exits

SPORTS BUREAU

Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan were beaten 6-4, 1-6, [10-6] in the semifinals by USA's Keegan Smith and Evan Zhu in the $53,120 Challenger tennis tournament in Cali, Colombia.

Other results (semifinals): $45,730 Challenger, Malaga: Altug Celikbilek (Tur) & Dmitry Popko (Kaz) bt Victor Vlad Cornea (Rou) & Arjun Kadhe 6-7(2), 6-3, [10-8]; Daniel Cukierman (Isr) & Emilio Gomez (Ecu) bt Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni 6-4, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: Doubles: Dong Bohua & Zhang Ze (Chn) bt Boris Butulija (Srb) & Niki Poonacha 6-2, 6-2. **Women:** Manon Leonard (Fra) bt Jennifer Luikham 6-1, 6-3.

RACING

Multifaceted primed to deliver

BENGALURU: Multifaceted, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Chief Minister's Cup (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 3). False rails (width about 9.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 BRAVE DANCER PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Baba Voss (1) Tousif K 61.5, 2. Handsome Rocky (8) Angad 61.5, 3. Luminary Star (7) Kiran Rai 61.5, 4. Super Kind (4) Salman K 60, 5. War Eagle (6) Arvind K 60, 6. Lightning Flame (3) A. Imran 58.5, 7. Osibisa (9) J.H. Arul 58.5, 8. Southernaristocrat (2) Kirtish B 58.5 and 9. Jai Vikram (5) Nayak 53.

LOSIBISA, 2. LIGHTNING FLAME, 3. HANDSOME ROCKY

2 ROYAL TERN PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Ocean Dunes (1) K. Nazil 60, 2. Air Blast (3) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 3. Gold Gray (5) Siddaraju 58.5, 4. Lady Supremos (8) Saddam H 56, 5. Lauterbrunnen (6) Angad 56, 6. Dark Vision (2) G. Vivek 55.5, 7. Favorito (4) Rayan 53, 8. Speed Seven (9) Likith 53, 9. Amazing Luck (10) Tousif K 52.5 and 10. Memorable Time (7) Vishal B 52.

1. AIR BLAST, 2. GOLD GRAY, 3. LAUTERBRUNNEN

3 PADDIWICK PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-30: 1. Bruce Almighty (1) T.S. Jodha 56, 2. Rapidus (2) Akshay K 56, 3. Tignanello (7) Ashhad A 56, 4. Tycoonist (10) Suraj 56, 5. Worldly Wise (3) Ajinkya 56, 6. Angel Bliss (5) K. Nazil 54.5, 7. Daianne (4) Bhawani S 54.5, 8. Geographique (9) Zervan 54.5, 9. Indian Blues (6) S. Shareef 54.5, 10. Lady Godiva (8) N.S. Parmar 54.5 and 11. Royal Glory (11) Sandesh 54.5.

1. ROYAL GLORY, 2. RAPIDUS, 3. TYCOONIST

4 CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Multifaceted (1) Trevor 60, 2. Ashwa Bravo (3) Suraj 57, 3. Corfe Castle (5) C.S. Jodha 55.5, 4. Enigma (7) P.S. Chouhan 54, 5. Augustus Caesar (2) Zervan 53.5, 6. Golden Oaks (4) Sandesh 52.5 and 7. Smashing Blue (6) Akshay K 51.

1. MULTIFACETED, 2. ASHWA BRAVO

5 FIRE HAVEN PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-30: 1. Silver Dew (6) Kiran Rai 62.5, 2. Lord Vader (2) Bhawani S 59.5, 3. General Patton (3) Akshay K 59, 4. Garamond (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 5. Star Glory (7) Suraj 55, 6. Devils Magic (4) J.H. Arul 54, 7. Indian Pharaoh (5) Arvind K 54, 8. Bellagio (8) C.S. Jodha 52 and 9. Dear Lady (9) N.S. Parmar 50.

1. STAR GLORY, 2. GENERAL PATTON, 3. LORD VADER

6 JULY PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Southern Power (–) (–) 62.5, 2. Queen Regnant (6) Trevor 61, 3. Acaster (1) Srinath 57.5, 4. Lycurgus (7) J.H. Arul 57, 5. Ombudsman (3) Darshan 57, 6. Embosom (4) P.S. Chouhan 55, 7. Johnny Bravo (2) Nikhil N 55 and 8. Marco Polo (5) L.A. Rozario 53.

1. EMBOSOM, 2. QUEEN REGNANT

7 ROYAL TERN PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Millbrook (5) Hasib A 62.5, 2. Divine Blessings (7) S. Saqlain 61, 3. Benediction (6) S. Shareef 60, 4. Chul Bul Rani (9) Salman K 60, 5. Aherne (4) T.S. Jodha 59, 6. Chisox (8) L.A. Rozario 58.5, 7. Extraordinary (3) Arvind K 58, 8. Armory (2) Rajesh K 57 and 9. Queen Of Sands (1) Chethan K 57.

1. AHERNE, 2. QUEEN OF SANDS, 3. EXTRAORDINARY

Day's best: **MULTIFACETED**
Double: **ROYAL GLORY – STAR GLORY**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Ballerina takes the honours in Juvenile Sprinters' Million

BENGALURU: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Limited's Ballerina (Suraj up) won the Juvenile Sprinters' Million, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (July 2).

The winner is trained by Prasad Raju.

1. SUPERVITE PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **OZARK** (T.S. Jodha) 1, Beldona (Arvind K) 2, The Omega Man (Saddam H) 3 and Zehnaseeb (Darshan) 4. Not run: Baroness. 4-1/4, Lnk and 4. 1m, 15.56s. ₹34 (w), 12, 11 and 54 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 112, FP: 85, Q: 26, Trinella: 1,675 and 814, Exacta: 6,060 and 3,376. Favourite: Beldona. Owner: Mr. Syed Muheeb. Trainer: Rajendra Singh.

2. FANTABULOUS KING PLATE (1,200m), md. 3-y-o only (terms): **INYOUWEBELIEVE** (Trevor) 1, Tripitaka (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Stormwatch (Hindu S) 3 and Stormy Ocean (Ajinkya) 4. Lnk, 5 and 3/4. 1m, 14.80s. ₹17 (w), 11, 30 and 41 (p), SHP: 64, THP: 99, FP: 106, Q: 92, Trinella: 2,286 and 980, Exacta: 8,386 and 1,369. Favourite: Inyouwebelieve. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

3. NAWAB M ARSHAD ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 80 & above: **TAIMUR** (Bhawani S) 1, Sea Of Cortez (P.P. Dhebe) 2, Automatic (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Truly Epic (Sandesh) 4. 2-1/4, 1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 40.13s. ₹26 (w), 12 and 65 (p), SHP: 115, THP: 41, FP: 685, Q: 417, Trinella: 4,001 and 536, Exacta: 4,858 and 1,487. Favourite: Taimur. Owner: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: Karthik Ganapathy.

4. JUVENILE SPRINTERS' MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only (terms): **BALLERINA** (Suraj) 1, Artemis Ignacia (Akshay K) 2, O Hansini (Trevor) 3 and Amreli (Sandesh) 4. Lnk, 2-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 13.45s. ₹71 (w), 27 and 21 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 31, FP: 344, Q: 97, Trinella: 1,318 and 410, Exacta: 1,229 and 360. Favourite: Amreli. Owner: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

5. AKHAL-TEKE PLATE (2,000m), rated 40 to 65: **SUCCESS** (Hindu S) 1, Siege Perilous (Akshay K) 2, Pissarro (Trevor) 3 and Peluche (T.S. Jodha) 4. 10-1/2, 2 and 3/4. 2m 05.95s. ₹21 (w), 12, 15 and 13 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 44, FP: 66, Q: 50, Trinella: 123 and 56, Exacta: 602 and 352. Favourite: Success. Owner: Dr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: Vijay Singh.

6. LADY GIBRALTAR PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **POLISHED GIRL** (Suraj) 1, La Reina (Sandesh) 2, Nikolina (Akshay K) 3 and Yukan (Srinath) 4. 4, 1-1/4 and 7-1/2. 1m, 26.64s. ₹17 (w), 10, 17 and 13 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 41, FP: 105, Q: 66, Trinella: 180 and 46, Exacta: 328 and 173. Favourite: Polished Girl. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal, Mr. M. Ravi and Mrs. R. Chellam. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

7. SUPERVITE PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **DEBONAIR** (Md. Aliyar) 1, Altair (Arvind K) 2, Port Of Beauty (S. Shareef) 3 and Red Lucifer (Salman K) 4. Not run: Emeraldo. Nk, 6-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 6.94s. ₹91 (w), 26, 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 46, FP: 408, Q: 144, Trinella: 1,550 and 664, Exacta: 3,002 and 1,342. Favourite: Altair. Owner: Mr. Dayanand Kachuwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

Jackpot: ₹5,217 (six tkts.); Runner-up: 543 (72 tkts.); Treble (i): 706 (16 tkts.); (ii): 247 (82 tkts).

All-round Bumrah puts England on the back foot

The skipper sets a world record before rattling the hosts' top-order; Jadeja makes a majestic hundred as India posts 416

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

India skipper Jasprit Bumrah starred with both bat and ball even as England's Stuart Broad sent down the most expensive over in Test history (35 runs) at Edgbaston on Saturday.

India was dismissed for 416 in its first innings in the fifth and final Test of the series. Bumrah, who hit Broad for 29 runs in an over that also featured five wides and a no-ball he struck for six, led from the front in his primary role of strike bowler.

He took the first three wickets to fall during an excellent spell of three for 35 in 11 overs as England slumped to 84 for five at stumps, still 332 runs behind.

- Bumrah's 31 not out is the highest by a debutant captain in Test history while batting at No. 10, bettering Bishan Singh Bedi's 30 against New Zealand in Christchurch (1976)

India, resuming at 338 for seven, added 78 in 11.5 overs. Ravindra Jadeja, unbeaten on 83, completed the third century of his 60-Test career and his first overseas. He reached the landmark in style, cutting Potts to the boundary. Jadeja's 183-ball hundred contained 13 fours.

Anderson's five-for

Broad became the sixth bowler to take 550 wickets when he had Shami caught by Leach on the third-man boundary. Jimmy Anderson, who bowled Jadeja for 104 and had Siraj caught by Broad, finished with five for 60 in 21.5 overs.

Bumrah followed his 31 not out by bowling opener Alex Lees and forcing Zak Crawley to edge to Gill at slip. Ollie Pope departed in the same fashion, taken by Shreyas Iyer this time.

This was followed by a long rain break and when play resumed in bright sunshine, the in-form pair of Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow briefly kept the visitors at bay. But the stand was broken when Root was caught behind for 31 while trying to cut a Mohammed Siraj delivery that was too close to him. Root was given a torrid time by Mohammed Shami, who beat him repeatedly and was unlucky not to get him out.

Nightwatchman Jack Leach was out for a five-ball duck when he was caught behind off Shami. At stumps, Bairstow, who also found the going tough, was unbeaten on 12 along with skipper Ben Stokes (0).

Standing tall: Jadeja, who revived the innings in the company of Pant, completed his third Test century. • GETTY IMAGES

Most runs in an over in Tests

Stuart Broad's 35-run over is the costliest in Tests, breaking the record of 28

35 Batter: Bumrah
Bowler: Broad
4 | 4wd | 6+nb | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 1

- India vs. England, Birmingham, 2022
- Bumrah scored 29 of those 35, a wide went for four (five runs) and a no-ball that was hit for a six (seven runs)

28 Batter: Lara
Bowler: Robin Peterson
4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4

- West Indies vs. South Africa, Johannesburg, 2003

28 Batter: Bailey
Bowler: Anderson
4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6

- Australia vs. England, Perth, 2013

28 Batter: Maharaj
Bowler: Root
4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4b

- South Africa vs. England, Port Elizabeth, 2020
- Maharaj scored 24 and there were 4 byes

Just when you think you have seen it all, this game surprises you even more. Fascinating batting from Bumrah to smash the red cherry for 29 in an over. First in Durban with Yuvraj and now in Birmingham. On air at the right place and right time for 35 and 36.
RAVI SHASTRI

Sad to lose my record today... oh, well, records are made to be broken, I guess. On to the next one
ROBIN PETERSON

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

Shubman Gill c Crawley b Anderson 17 *(24b, 4x4)*, Cheteshwar Pujara c Crawley b Anderson 13 *(46b, 2x4)*, Hanuma Vihari lbw b Potts 20 *(53b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli b Potts 11 *(19b, 2x4)*, Rishabh Pant c Crawley b Root 146 *(111b, 19x4, 4x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Billings b Anderson 15 *(11b, 3x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja b Anderson 104 *(194b, 13x4)*, Shardul Thakur c Billings b Stokes 1 *(12b)*, Mohammed Shami c Leach b Broad 16 *(31b, 3x4)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 31 *(16b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Mohammed Siraj c Broad b Anderson 2 *(6b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-17, nb-14, w-5): 40; Total (in 84.5 overs): 416.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Gill, 6.2 overs), 2-46 (Pujara, 17.6), 3-64 (Vihari, 22.2), 4-71 (Kohli, 24.2), 5-98 (Shreyas, 27.5), 6-320 (Pant, 66.2), 7-323 (Shardul, 67.6), 8-371 (Shami, 79.4), 9-375 (Jadeja, 82.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Anderson 21.5-4-60-5, Broad 18-3-89-1, Potts 20-1-105-2, Leach 9-0-71-0, Stokes 13-0-47-1, Root 3-0-23-1.

ENGLAND – 1ST INNINGS

Alex Lees b Bumrah 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, Zak Crawley c Gill b Bumrah 9 *(17b, 1x4)*, Ollie Pope c Shreyas b Bumrah 10 *(18b, 2x4)*, Joe Root c Pant b Siraj 31 *(67b, 4x4)*, Jonny Bairstow (batting) 12 *(47b, 1x4)*, Jack Leach c Pant b Shami 0 *(5b)*, Ben Stokes (batting) 0 *(4b)*; Extras (b-8, lb-3, nb-5): 16; Total (for five wkts. in 27 overs): 84.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Lees, 2.6), 2-27 (Crawley, 4.1), 3-44 (Pope, 10.6), 4-78 (Root, 22.6), 5-83 (Leach, 25.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 11-1-35-3, Shami 13-3-33-1, Siraj 3-2-5-1.

Tried to disturb bowlers mentally, says Pant

Dazzling duo | Pant and Jadeja are the only Indian batters to score Test centuries in 2022. A look at their overall century collection:

PANT: 114 vs. England, The Oval, 2018
159 n.o. vs. Australia, Sydney, 2019
101 vs. England, Ahmedabad, 2021
100 n.o. vs. South Africa, Cape Town, 2022
146 vs. England, Birmingham, 2022

JADEJA: 100 n.o. vs. West Indies, Rajkot, 2018
175 n.o. vs. Sri Lanka, Mohali, 2022
104 vs. England, Birmingham, 2022

- Pant and Jadeja's 222-run stand for the sixth wicket is the highest for India against England, eclipsing the 204-run association between Pant and Rahul at The Oval in 2018
- It is also the joint biggest for the sixth wicket for India in away Tests, equalling the partnership between Azharuddin and Tendulkar at Cape Town in 1997
- Pant's 89-ball century is the fastest by an Indian wicketkeeper, breaking Dhoni's 93-ball hundred against Pakistan in Faisalabad (2006)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant said his plan was to "disturb the bowlers mentally."

"In English conditions, if a bowler pitches it up, it's important to disturb his rhythm," said the 24-year-old Pant.

"I don't try to play unidimensional... I try out various shots – sometimes I step out, or play on the backfoot. I use the crease well. It's about disturbing the bowler mentally. It's not pre-planned, I just focus on what the bowler is trying to do.

"You can't be defensive or attacking with each ball. I play every ball on its merit. It's a good sign to show respect to a good ball. I'm not focusing much on defence, just focusing on my game."

LIVE TELECAST

Formula 2: Silverstone GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2.30 p.m.
England vs India: 5th Test, day 3, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3 p.m.
Wimbledon: SS Select 1 & Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards; SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
Formula 1: British GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Women's Hockey World Cup: India v England, Star Sports 3 & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 11 p.m.

Kalaivani storms into the final

SPORTS BUREAU

Promising boxer S. Kalaivani gave a fine performance to defeat Uzbekistan's Farzona Fozilova 5-0 and book a berth in the women's 48kg final at the Elorda Cup boxing tournament in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on Saturday.

Former World youth champion Jyoti Gulia (52kg) lost in the semifinals to take the bronze medal.

Important results (Indians unless specified):
Men: Quarterfinals: 48kg: Kuldeep Kumar bt Kairat Yernur (Kaz) 3-2; **71kg:** Yashpal lost to Aslanbek Shymbergenov (Kaz) 5-0.
Women: Semifinals: 48kg: S. Kalaivani bt Farzona Fozilova (Uzb) 5-0; **52kg:** Jyoti Gulia lost to Feruza Kazaroka (Uzb) 5-0; **63kg:** Neema lost to Anar Tursynbek (Kaz) 5-0; **81kg:** Babita Bisht lost to Zheng Lu (Chn) RSC.
Quarterfinals: 50kg: Savita lost to Namiki Tsukimi (Jpn) 5-0.

Sainz takes his first F1 pole

REUTERS
SILVERSTONE

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz took the first pole position of his Formula One career in a wet qualifying for the British Grand Prix on Saturday, with Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen alongside him on the front row with teammate Charles Leclerc qualifying third.

Lewis Hamilton will start in fifth place for Mercedes on Sunday.

Mithali 'overwhelmed' by PM Modi's letter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj on Saturday said she was overwhelmed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "thoughtfully worded acknowledgement" of her contribution to the sport.

The PM had in a letter extended his good wishes to the Indian batter after she announced her retirement from international cricket last month, saying the player has been an inspiration for many sportspersons.

"It's a matter of singular honour & pride when one receives such warm encouragement from our Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji, who is a role model & inspiration for millions including me. I am overwhelmed by this thoughtfully worded acknowledgment of my contribution to cricket," Mithali tweeted.

"I will treasure this forever. I feel inspired and encouraged for my next chapter and will strive hard to live up to the expectations of our Hon'ble PM in contributing towards the growth of Indian sports," she wrote on her Twitter handle.

Mithali. • FILE PHOTO: NAGARA GOPAL

India eyes revenge against Great Britain

The two teams come to grips for first time since the Olympic bronze match-up

WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMSTELVEEN

A rejuvenated India will seek revenge against Great Britain when the two sides open their Pool B campaign in the Women's Hockey World Cup here on Sunday.

India will look to settle scores against the side that shattered its bronze medal hopes at the Tokyo Olympics. India came tantalisingly close to claiming a maiden Olympic medal in Tokyo, only to lose 3-4 to England, which is playing as Great Britain here.

Upwardly mobile

The Indians are high on confidence after finishing a creditable third in their maiden FIH Pro League. India's best performance in the World Cup is a fourth place at the inaugural edition in 1974.

India achieved its best-ever world ranking – sixth – in May and then gave some top teams a run for their money in the Pro League. India finished on the podium ahead of strong sides like Belgium, Australia and England.

Experienced goalkeeper Savita Punia has been brilliant as captain having taken over from Rani Rampal, who has been sidelined since the Tokyo Games due to injury.

Savita has been in stellar form, while she will have young and energetic back-up in Bichu Devi Kharibam.

The backline will be under the watchful eyes of vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka, Gurjit Kaur, Udita and Nikki Pradhan, while the responsibility of building the attacks will be on the shoulders of Sushila Chanu, Neha Goyal, Navjot Kaur, Sonika, Jyoti, Nisha and Monika.

Salima Tete, who has been in terrific form, will need to play the linking role.

The shooters

The responsibility of scoring goals will be on experienced Vandana Katariya, Lalremsiami, Navneet Kaur and Sharmila Devi.

India finished eight at the last edition in 2018. Britain's best result in the World Cup is a bronze in 2010.

India's schedule in Group B: **July 3**: vs. Great Britain (8 p.m.); **July 5**: vs. China (8 p.m.). **July 7**: vs. New Zealand (11 p.m.). *(all times IST)*.

Ready to roll: India will look to put its best foot forward when it takes on Great Britain on Sunday. • TWITTER@THEHOCKEYINDIA

India beats Derby in warm-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DERBY

Deepak Hooda hit a fine half-century to help India beat Derbyshire county by seven wickets in a T20 warm-up match here on Friday.

Hooda made 59 off 37 balls and shared 78 runs for the third wicket with Suryakumar Yadav (36 not out) as India chased down 151 with 20 balls to spare. Hooda's knock contained five fours and two sixes, while Suryakumar struck four boundaries and a six.

Earlier, Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh grabbed two wickets apiece as India restricted Derbyshire to 150 for eight after opting to bowl.

The scores: Derbyshire 150/8 in 20 overs (Wayne Madsen 28, Hilton Cartwright 27) lost to India 151/3 in 16.4 overs (Sanju Samson 38, Deepak Hooda 59, Suryakumar Yadav 36 n.o.).

Swiatek's stunning run comes to an end

Loses to Cornet in straight sets; Garin upsets 29th seed Brooksby

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek's 37-match winning streak ended with a straight-set loss to Alize Cornet in the third round at Wimbledon on Saturday.

Swiatek was coming off a title at the French Open but her game was filled with errors in the 4-6, 2-6 defeat against the 37th-ranked Cornet of France.

Swiatek made 33 unforced errors in the one hour 33 minute contest on the No. 1 Court. Cornet, in contrast, made only seven unforced errors.

Swiatek had been unbeaten since February and won her preceding six tournaments in a row.

This is not the first surprising result Cornet has come up with at the All England Club. The only other time she reached the fourth round was in 2014 when she eliminated Serena Williams.

Amanda Anisimova came from behind to beat 11th seed Coco Gauff 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-1 in an all-American clash on Centre Court.

Former champion Simona Halep advanced with a comfortable 6-4, 6-1 win over Poland's Magdalena Frech.

Cristian Garin of Chile reached the fourth round for the second straight year with a 6-2, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 victory over 29th-seeded Jenson Brooksby of the United States.

The 26-year-old Garin will next face 19th-seeded Alex de Minaur for a place in the quarterfinals.

11th-seeded Taylor Fritz of the United States advanced to the fourth round at Wimbledon for the first time after a 6-4, 6-1, 7-6(3) victory over Alex Molcan.

Fritz will next face qualifier Jason Kubler of Australia for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Giant slayer: Cornet reached the fourth round of Wimbledon for only the second time, the first in 2014. • AFP

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Third round: Men: Garin (Chi) bt 29-Brooksby (USA) 6-2, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; 19-De Minaur (Aus) bt Broady (GBr) 6-3, 6-4, 7-5; 21-van de Zandschulp (Ned) bt Gasquet (Fra) 7-5, 2-6, 7-6(7), 6-1; 11-Fritz (USA) bt Molcan (Svk) 6-4, 6-1, 7-6(3).
Women: Cornet (Fra) bt 1-Swiatek (Pol) 6-4, 6-2; Martic (Cro) bt 8-Pegula (USA) 6-2, 7-6(5); 4-Badosa (Esp) bt 25-Kvitova (Cze) 7-5, 7-6(4); Tomljanovic (Aus) bt 13-Krejcikova (Cze) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; 20-Anisimova (USA) bt 11-Gauff (USA) 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-1; 16-Halep (Rou) bt Frech (Pol) 6-4, 6-1; 17-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Zheng (Chn) 7-6(4), 7-5.

Fallen seeds

- *Men:* 29-Brooksby
- *Women:* 1-Swiatek; 8-Pegula; 11-Gauff; 13-Krejcikova; 25-Kvitova

Jamie Murray played hard to get, says Venus

Brit calls the American a champion

Mix and match: Venus and Jamie Murray decided to combine forces at the last possible minute. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Venus Williams made a winning return to Wimbledon on Friday when the 42-year-old American teamed with Britain's Jamie Murray in mixed doubles. Venus and Murray defeated Michael Venus and Alicja Rosolska 6-3, 6-7(3), 6-3 in the first round.

The pair said their decision to play was last-minute but Venus revealed she had wanted to partner the Briton for some time. "He played hard to get," she said. "I wanted to play with him for ages but it was super last-minute."

A five-time singles champion at Wimbledon, Venus was runner-up in the mixed doubles at Wimbledon in 2006 with Bob Bryan.

Murray is a five-time Slam champion in the event, winning Wimbledon in 2007 and 2017 with Jelena Jankovic and Martina Hingis.

"I was supposed to play with Venus last year but I hurt my neck," said the 36-year-old. "I couldn't say no twice. It was amazing to be on the court with such a champion."

Jakobsen wins stage two

Fabio Jakobsen. • AFP

REUTERS
NYBORG (DENMARK)

Dutchman Fabio Jakobsen claimed the second stage of the Tour de France, a 202.2-km flat ride from Roskilde to Nyborg, in a stunning sprint finish after edging out Wout van Aert and Mads Pedersen on Saturday.

Van Aert's push at the end meant that the Team Jumbo-Visma rider took the yellow jersey from fellow Belgian Yves Lampaert, who was involved in a late crash but recovered to remain second in the general classification.

Two-times defending champion Tadej Pogacar crossed the line three minutes behind after suffering a puncture but managed to retain third place.

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